PRICE ONE PENNY.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 22,134. {Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1908.

12 PAGES.

PRICE 1d.

SUMMARY.

The steamer Irada, with a cargo of cotton, from Galveston to Liverpool, was totally wrecked on Mizen Head, Cork.

The steamer ran ashore in a fog. Five men, including the captain, were drowned.

The rest of the crew clung to the cliffs all night, and were rescued at daybreak.

The London County Council has voted a sum of £10,000 to help in providing free meals for school children in London schools.

Seven city councillors and two bankers of Pittsburg, U.S.A., have been arrested on a charge of bribery and corruption.

Two of the crew of H.M.S. Amethyst were sentenced to imprisonment and dismissal from the service for throwing a gun spring overboard.

Mr. J. P. Farrell, M.P. (Nationalist) was ordered to find security to keep the peace for making an inflammatory speech.

Mr. Farrell refused to find the security, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment without hard labour.

The German authorities do not regard the reported unrest in Samoa as serious.

Twenty-three English insurance companies agree to settle claims amounting to £800,000 arising out of litigation connected with the earthquake in Jamaica.

The frustration of a plot to assassinate Senor Gomez, the Acting President of Venezuela, completed the downfall of President Castro.

The conspirators intended to seize the Administration, and with the army to overawe the population.

A document has been filed in the Federal High Court proposing to impeach General Castro for complicity in the plot.

Senor Gomez has eliminated all adherents of ex-President Castro from the Cabinet.

R. Fitzsimmons, who has been interviewed in London, states that he is willing to fight the winner of the Burns-Johnson contest.

The police are taking elaborate precautions to prevent disorderly conduct in the city on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The Christmas supplies of poultry to hand are lighter than has been the case for many years, and high prices are ruling.

The dearth of supplies is attributed to the dearness of feed. Foxes have thinned out Monaro turkeys.

Good progress is being made with the section of the North Coast railway between Maitland and Dungog.

Referring to the cabled news as to undervaluing of goods in America, the Minister for Customs says that Australia is not suffering in the same way.

Officers were instructed, he remarks, to be specially alert in taking suspicious invoices to headquarters.

Mr. T. J. Exton has been elected president of the Commercial Travellers' Association at Adelaide.

Arnst considers that E. Barry should come to New Zealand if he wants to row for the championship.

The matter is to be considered by Arnst's backers within a few days.

Leading New South Wales and Victorian players endorse the action of Noble and Hill in regard to the Board of Control's terms for the English tour.

Dr. M'Call, M.H.A., has accepted the position of Agent-General for Tasmania. He leaves for London in February.

The electorates in which contests will take place in the Victorian elections have been reduced to 39.

A conservative estimate of the number of seats which the anti-socialists should win is 2.

Mr. Waddell, State Treasurer, who has been on a visit to the southern district, is expected to return to Sydney to-day.

Mr. Oakes, honorary Minister, is discharging the duties of Minister for Works during the absence of Mr. Lee at Port Macquarie.

The City Council committees for 1909 have been elected. The Lord Mayor-elect, Alderman Allen Taylor, will be ex-officio a member of all the committees.

The Public Works Committee took evidence yesterday regarding the expediency of constructing a tramway from Bomaderry to Jervis Bay.

Mr. W. J. Hanna thought that the proposal would be of very little benefit, and would not create any volume of new business.

He recommended that the proposal should remain in abeyance.

Mr. Hanna also gave evidence regarding the proposal to construct a railway from Eden to Bega. He could not recommend the line.

The Land Appeal Court delivered three reserved judgments relating to the rights of lessees of lands granted when the late Mr. Crick was Minister.

The whole matter rested on the construction placed upon the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act and its relation to the land laws.

The Tramway Board delivered its award in regard to the issues filed by the electric and power-house branches of the service.

The subject was a dispute between the Chief Commissioner and the employees in the branches in question.

A fire broke out at an early hour yesterday morning at No. 128 Castlereagh-street.

The flames had got a good hold by the time the brigades arrived, and a thick stream of smoke was rising above the roof.

Both the first and second floors, with their contents, were damaged. A big blaze was averted by the brigades.

A young man named Thomas Smith had both hands chopped off by a chaffcutter on a farm near Inverell.

Fourteen thousand acres of grass on Goonambil Station were swept by the bush fires. The strong wind carried the flames through Coreen on to Ringwood.

A shunter named David Costello had both legs severed by an accident on the railway between Block 10 mine and the Zinc Corporation, Broken Hill.

The tug Marian Mayfield, which went aground on the crossing at Forster, was floated off uninjured.

Alterations have been made in the goods rates on the railways, representing a reduction of £60,000.

The most important general alteration is in regard to the mileage scale for all classes of goods.

A new scale has been adopted, affording substantial relief to the higher freight traffic carried long distances.

The question as to whether the North Shore is to be connected with the city by bridge or tunnel is still under consideration.

Information in the way of estimates is yet to be obtained by the commission from the Public Works Department.

As the result of the ballot for the election of officials of the Miners' Federation at Newcastle, the retiring officers have been re-elected.

For the position of president the voting was:—Mr. Peter Bowling, 3118; Mr. J. Patterson, 3025.

The directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary Mine and Block 10 have discussed the demand of the combined unions as to wages.

It was agreed to refer the question to the Federal Arbitration Court.

The University Scouts camp at National Park has concluded. After leaving camp the scouts carried out a tactical scheme on the way to the railway station.

A labourer named Richard Loseby was drowned at Manly while endeavouring to jump aboard the steamer Burra-bra.

A severe drought prevails in Tasmania. In Hobart a restriction has been placed on the use of water for irrigation.

The effect of the drought is felt in the fruit districts, where the green beetle is doing great damage.

A start is to be made next month with the railway line from Dalby to Tarra, in Queensland.

Work on the Clermont-Blair Athol line is also to be proceeded with.

A small spurt took place in copper and silver stocks yesterday, and a fair amount of business was transacted.

Prices for silver shares eased somewhat towards the close. Both gold and tin shares were neglected.

Weather Forecast.—Some showers likely on the South Coast, and also in the north-east, associated with thunder; otherwise chiefly fine.

ABOUT YOUR XMAS EVE.

A PLEA FOR EARLY SHOPPING.

Doubtless you will spend it at home with your family and friends if you are a family man; if you are not you will wish to spend it in joyousness and freedom.

And you doubtless wish other people to have the same privileges. Therefore we appeal to you to shop early to-day. As pioneers of early closing, FARMER'S CLOSE AT 6 O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT (Xmas Eve), and will remain closed till Monday morning.

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VICTORIA	6,500	Haddock	Jan. 16	Jan. 19	Jan. 21
‡MOREA	11,000	Broun	Jan. 30	Feb. 2	Feb. 4
†MOOLTAN	10,000	Henning	Feb. 13	Feb. 16	Feb. 18
*CHINA	8,000	Street	Feb. 24	Mar. 2	Mar. 4
*MOLDAVIA	10,000	Gordon	Mar. 10	Mar. 16	Mar. 18
‡*MALWA	11,000	—	Mar. 24	Mar. 30	April 1
*MONGOLIA	10,000	Preston	April 7	April 13	April 15
*MARMORA	10,500	Weston	April 21	April 27	April 29

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PASSAGES BOOKED TO LONDON, VIA PARIS.

Steamers.	Sydney, noon.	Melb., 1 p.m.	Adel., 1 p.m.
AUSTRALIEN	Dec. 28	Dec. 31	Jan. 2
YARRA	Jan. 25	Jan. 28	Jan. 30
VILLE DE LA CIOTAT	Feb. 22	Feb. 25	Feb. 27
ARMAND BEHIC	Mar. 22	Mar. 25	Mar. 27

FARES TO MARSEILLES:—Single, £24 4s to £78 2s; Return, £36 6s to £116 12s, including table wines. English spoken on board.

EXCURSION RETURN TICKETS TO COLOMBO, available 75 days, issued at greatly reduced rates. Return coupon interchangeable with all MAIL COMPANIES.

FREMANTLE:—Saloon, £8 to £11, Return £13 to £16 10s; Third-class, £5 5s.

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Steamers.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney, 1.30 p.m.
*ROON	8,022	O. Pahnke	Dec. 26
*YORCK	9,000	J. Randermann	Jan. 23
*FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE	10,695	H. Bleeker	Feb. 20
*BREMEN	11,570	C. von Borell	Mar. 20
*ROON	8,022	O. Pahnke	April 17
*SEYDLITZ	8,000	A. Ahlborn	May 15

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†*WARATAH	9,000	J. E. Ilbery	Jan. 9
*COMMONWEALTH	6,611	T. Hine	Feb. 6
WAKOOL	5,013	F. W. Hansen	March 6

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Steamer.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney.
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EMPIRE	4500	P. T. Helms	Feb. 13
EASTERN	3600	W. G. M'Arthur	Mar. 13
ALDENHAM	4000	St. John George	Apl. 10

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TAIYUAN	2300	L. DAWSON	JAN. 28
CHANGSHA	2300	EDW. FINLAYSON	MAR. 10

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For Plymouth and London, via Naples and Marseilles, calling at Fremantle (W.A.), Colombo, Transhipping to all Indian Ports and Suez Canal Ports.

R.M.S.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney, 3 p.m.	Melb., 1 p.m.	Adel., 1 p.m.
†*OMRAH	8,282	Symons	Dec. 26 Noon.	Dec. 29	Dec. 31
OROTAVA	5,980	Plunkett	Jan. 9	Jan. 12	Jan. 14
ORMUZ	6,463	Shelford	Jan. 23	Jan. 26	Jan. 28
ORIENT	5,455	Staunton	Feb. 6	Feb. 9	Feb. 11
OROYA	6,297	Laws	Feb. 20	Feb. 23	Feb. 25
*ORTONA	8,000	Collins	Mar. 6	Mar. 9	Mar. 11
*ORONTES	9,023	Ruthven	Mar. 17	Mar. 23	Mar. 25
*ASTURIAS	12,002	Jenks	Mar. 31	April 6	April 8
*OMRAH	8,282	Symons	April 14	April 20	April 22

* Twin Screw. b Calling at Hobart.
† Leaving Sydney at 3 p.m.

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3rd Class (liberal dietary scale), £17, £19, £21.

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Steamer.	Leave Sydney.	Arr. Brisbane.	Leave Brisbane.	Arr. Sydney.
OROTAVA	Dec. 29	Dec. 31	Jan. 2	Jan. 4
ORMUZ	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 16	Jan. 18

Ordinary First-class Rail Return Tickets from Brisbane are available for return by these Steamers.

HOLIDAY TRIPS TO CEYLON.

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THE BEST ROUTE TO EUROPE.

Steamer.	Tons.	From Sydney.	From Brisbane.	Arr. Vancouver.
MOANA	4000	Jan. 18	Jan. 20	Feb. 11
t*MAKURA	8100	Feb. 15	Feb. 17	Mar. 10
AORANGI	4300	Mar. 15	Mar. 17	Apl. 8
*MARAMA	6500	Apl. 12	Apl. 14	May 5
t*MAKURA	8100	May 10	May 12	June 2

t New Steamer. * Twin-screw Steamer.

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MOKOIA, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 12 noon.
MANUKA (Twin Screw), WEDNESDAY, January 13.

For WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN, BLUFF, HOBART, and MELBOURNE (transhipping to outports)—
WARRIMOO, TO-MORROW, FRIDAY, December 25, at midnight.
MARAMA (Twin Screw), SATURDAY, January 2.

TASMANIA.

For HOBART DIRECT—
PALOONA, MONDAY, January 4, 2 p.m., and 14.
From HOBART—
PALOONA, December 29, January 8, 18.
For LAUNCESTON, via EDEN—
WAKATIPU, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 11 a.m., and January 13.
From LAUNCESTON—
WAKATIPU, WEDNESDAY, January 7, and 20.
For STRAHAN, REGATTA POINT, DEVONPORT, BURNIE, and STANLEY—
KARITANE, MONDAY, December 28, at noon (Cargo only), from Druitt-street Wharf.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

For FIJI (Lautoka, Suva, Levuka), SAMOA (Apia), TONGA (Vavau, Haapai, Nukualofa), thence to AUCKLAND—
ATUA (Twin-screw), TUESDAY, January 5.
For TONGA (Nukualofa, Haapai, Vavau), SAMOA (Apia), FIJI, thence to SYDNEY—
TOFUA (Twin-screw), from AUCKLAND, TUESDAY, January 5.

SAN FRANCISCO, via TAHITI.

MANAPOURI, from Wellington, January 3, for Rarotonga and Tahiti, transhipping thence to MARIPOSA for San Francisco.
Connecting steamer from Sydney, WARRIMOO, December 25.

EASTERN PACIFIC SERVICE.

FOR RAROTONGA and TAHITI (from Auckland)—
HAUROTO, TUESDAY, January 19.
Connecting Steamer from Sydney, MANUKA, January 13.

FROM MELBOURNE.

For NEW ZEALAND PORTS—
MOERAKI (Twin Screw), TUESDAY, December 29, at 5 p.m.
For LAUNCESTON—
LOONGANA, 4 p.m., December 25, 28, 30; January 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13.
From LAUNCESTON—
LOONGANA, December 24, 26, 29, 31. January 2, 5, 7, 9, 12.
For BURNIE and DEVONPORT—
OONAH, December 24, 6 p.m.
For STRAHAN—
WAINUI, December 28.

Tickets available for stop-over or return by Huddart, Parker, and Co.'s steamers.
For leaflets and full particulars apply to
UNION STEAM SHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, Limited,
FREDK. W. JACKSON, Manager.
Office: 250 George-street, near Bridge-street.

WEST COAST SOUNDS OF NEW ZEALAND.

SPECIAL SUMMER CRUISE

The Magnificent S.S. WAIKARE will leave Dunedin on SATURDAY, January 16, for a twelve days' cruise to the far-famed West Coast Sounds of New Zealand.

A Special Feature of the Excursion will be the opportunities afforded for visiting the

SUTHERLAND FALLS (1904ft),

the Highest in the World.

Steamers leaving Sydney for Dunedin on January 2 and 9, and Melbourne on January 6, will Connect with the Waikare at Dunedin.

For Leaflets and full particulars, apply
UNION STEAMSHIP CO. OF N.Z. LTD.

F. H. S.
FEDERAL-HOULDER-SHIRE.

VIA SUEZ CANAL,
FOR LONDON AND LIVERPOOL.

The Fine Twin-screw Steamer
ESSEX,

11,400 Tons, T. PRISKE, Commander,
will be despatched DECEMBER 24, to be followed regularly by other fast twin-screw steamers, taking Wool, General, and Refrigerated Cargo at Lowest Current Rates of Freight.

Excellent Accommodation for Saloon and Third-class Passengers.

Saloon Accommodation on upper deck, situated amidships. Third-class on Main Deck. Dining saloon on Upper Deck.

Electric Light throughout. Surgeon and Stewardess carried.

Return Tickets issued—Prepaid Passages arranged.

FARES:
	Saloon.	Third Class.
London and Liverpool,	£49/10/;	£13/13/, £15/15/, and £17/17/.

Wool and other cargo received at F.H.S. Wharf, Darling Island.

Passengers' Luggage on day of sailing only.

For full particulars, illustrated pamphlets, etc, apply to

BIRT and COMPANY, Limited,
Managing Agents,
7 Macquarie-place, Sydney.

Telephones: 585, 1774 Central.
Wharf: 95 Glebe.
Wool Department, Wharf: 338 Glebe.

F. H. S.
FEDERAL-HOULDER-SHIRE.

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS.

S.S. ESSEX
SAILS THIS EVENING.
Passengers must be on board not later than 6 p.m.

BIRT and COMPANY, LIMITED,
Managing Agents.

JAVA - AUSTRALIA LINE
OF
ROYAL DUTCH PACKET COMPANY.

The following popular steamers will leave Sydney on the undermentioned dates for PORT MORESBY, THURSDAY ISLAND, DOBO, BANDA, MACASSAR, BOELELENG, SOURABAYA, SAMARANG, BATAVIA, and SINGAPORE, via QUEENSLAND PORTS:—

			1909.
VAN SPILBERGEN	3000 tons	G. van Everdinger	Jan. 5
LE MAIRE	3000 tons	Capt. Potjewyd	Feb. 9

Electric Light and Fans Throughout.
English Stewardess carried. First-class and Third-class Passengers carried. English spoken on board. An ideal pleasure trip.
For full particulars apply to
Head Office for Australasia, 7 Spring-street.
Telephone, 968 City.

TWEED RIVER (all parts).—DUROBY, TUESDAY, 9 p.m.
COFF'S HARBOUR and WOOLGOOLGA.—COOLOON, SATURDAY, 6 p.m. Cargo rec. daily. 'Phone, 2807.
LANGLEY BROS., Baltic Wharf, Market-street.

PORT MACQUARIE, HASTINGS and WILSON RIVERS.—OUR JACK, MONDAY, 6 p.m., from Baltic Wharf, Market-street. Cargo received daily.
LANGLEY BROS., Agents.

CHILDREN'S Shoes are made a speciality of at Joe Gardiner's big boot stores, Oxford and George sts.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BURNS PHILP AND CO.,

SHIPPING

AGENTS.

N. Y. K.
(NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA).
IMPERIAL JAPANESE MAIL LINE.
EXPRESS MAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICE
to
MANILA, CHINA, AND JAPAN,
calling at
BRISBANE, TOWNSVILLE, and THURSDAY ISLAND, with connections at Hongkong to Europe, via Suez, also to Shanghai and America. Connections at Nagasaki to North China, Korea, and Vladivostock.

Steamers leaving Sydney as under:—

Steamer.	Tons.	Commander.	Noon.
YAWATA MARU (omitting Nagasaki)	4000	T. Sekine	Dec. 29
NIKKO MARU	6000	R. Swain	Jan. 27
KUMANO MARU	5000	N. Mathieson	Feb. 24

Saloon amidships. Two berths only. Each cabin fitted with electric fans. Qualified surgeon carried. Linen washed on board at moderate prices.

Through First and Second Saloon Passengers will be given the option of travelling between Nagasaki and Yokohama, and vice versa, by Railway, thus economising time and breaking the sea journey.

For full particulars apply to
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd.,
Managing Agents.

A.U.S.N. CO., LTD.,
ROYAL MAIL COASTAL SERVICE.

THE POPULAR PASSENGER LINE.

FROM THE LIME-STREET WHARVES—

FOR MELBOURNE,
KANOWNA, SATURDAY, Noon, December 26.
ARAWATTA, TUESDAY, Noon, December 29.
WYREEMA (New Steamer, Twin Screw, 6337 tons), TUESDAY, 5 p.m., January 5.

MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, Transhipping to Port Pirie, ALBANY, FREMANTLE, Transhipping to Perth, Geraldton, and North-west Ports.
KANOWNA (Without Transhipment), SATURDAY, noon, December 26. And
KYARRA, (Without Transhipment), SATURDAY, noon, January 9.
Each 7000 Tons, Twin Screw, Deck Cabins.
Carrying First and Second Saloon and Steerage Passengers. Inspection invited. Early application for berths necessary.

BRISBANE, *MARYBOROUGH, *BUNDABERG, *GLADSTONE, ROCKHAMPTON, TOWNSVILLE (Jetty and Town Wharfs)
**MOIRA (Cargo Only), SATURDAY, Noon, December 26.
WYANDRA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., December 29.
*KOMURA (Cargo Only), SATURDAY, Noon, January 2.

BRISBANE, ROCKHAMPTON, MACKAY, BOWEN, TOWNSVILLE (Town Wharf) TOWNSVILLE (Jetty Wharf) †LUCINDA, †GERALDTON, †MOURILYAN, CAIRNS, PORT DOUGLAS, COOKTOWN.
WYANDRA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., December 29.
ARAWATTA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., January 5.
WYREEMA (New Steamer, Twin Screw, 6337 Tons), TUESDAY, 5 p.m., Jan. 12.
WODONGA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., January 19.

THURSDAY ISLAND, NORMANTON, BURKETOWN,
ARAWATTA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., January 5 (Transhipping at Brisbane).

LAUTOKA, SUVA, LEVUKA, } FIJI. SUVA, WEDNESDAY, 5 p.m., January 20.

* TRANSHIPPING AT BRISBANE.
** THROUGH SERVICE TO ROCKHAMPTON, TRANSHIPPING AT BRISBANE FOR TOWNSVILLE.
† TRANSHIPPING AT TOWNSVILLE.

LOWEST CURRENT FARES AND FREIGHTS.
After first port Saloon Tickets are interchangeable under certain conditions with all Interstate Companies in the Queensland and Western trades, to be ascertained on application to
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Limited, Agents,
10 Bridge-street.

A. U. S. N. CO., LTD.,
BOXING DAY.

NOTICE.—NO CARGO will be RECEIVED or DELIVERED at the A.U.S.N. Co.'s Wharf, on SATURDAY, 26th inst., after 10 a.m.
BURNS, PHILP and COMPANY, Ltd.,
Agents.

SYDNEY, JAVA, SINGAPORE.
MONTHLY SERVICE.
Under Contract with the Government of New South Wales.

Via QUEENSLAND PORTS AND PORT DARWIN, to SOURABAYA, SAMARANG, BATAVIA, AND SINGAPORE.
S.S. GUTHRIE, DECEMBER 31.
S.S. AIRLIE, FEBRUARY 1.

LOWEST PASSENGER FARES,
ENGLAND, via SINGAPORE and CALCUTTA, or CHINA, JAPAN, and SAN FRANCISCO, or VANCOUVER.
ROUND-THE-WORLD TOURS.

EXCURSIONS
to
JAVA, THE GARDEN OF THE EAST,
RETURN FARE, £36.
TIME OCCUPIED FOR ROUND VOYAGE, 50 DAYS, ALLOWING 10 DAYS IN JAVA.
For further particulars apply to
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd.

BURNS PHILP LINE.
(Under Commonwealth Mail Contract.)

FROM
FEDERAL WHARF,
for

LORD HOWE ISLAND, NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW HEBRIDES, BANKS GROUP. } S.S. TAMBO, THURS., DEC. 31, NOON.
Cargo received 28th, 29th, and 30th inst. ONLY.

GILBERT ISLANDS, ELLICE ISLANDS, MARSHALL ISLANDS, (Transhipping at Tarawa). } S.S. MUNIARA, TUES., JAN. 5, 4 P.M.
Cargo received January 4th ONLY.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, SHORTLAND ISLANDS, PAPUA. } S.S. MORESBY, FRIDAY, JAN. 8, NOON.
Cargo received January 6th and 7th ONLY.

BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd.,
10 Bridge-street,
Sydney.

BRISBANE.—CHAS. O'REILLY (estd 1866), Customs, Forwarding, Carrier, and General Agent, Felix-st.

HOWARD SMITH LINE
OF FAST PASSENGER STEAMERS,
FROM KING-STREET WHARVES.

FOR MELBOURNE, GEELONG,
BOMBALA, 5 p.m., THIS DAY, THURSDAY, December 24.
COOMA, 5 p.m., THURSDAY, December 31.

ADELAIDE, FREMANTLE (Taking Cargo for S.A., Gulf Ports, Perth, Hopetoun, and all other W.A. Ports), GERALDTON,
BURRUMBEET, 2 p.m., TUESDAY, January 26.

BRISBANE (Transhipping at Brisbane for Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Gladstone), ROCKHAMPTON (Wharf),
ALLINGA, 5 p.m., TUESDAY, December 29.
BURWAH, 5 p.m., TUESDAY, January 5. Cargo only.

BRISBANE (Transhipping at Brisbane for Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Gladstone), ROCKHAMPTON, MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE (Transhipping at Townsville for Lucinda Point, Cardwell, Mourilyan, Geraldton, Cairns, Port Douglas),
PEREGRINE, 2 p.m., SATURDAY, December 26.
BOMBALA, 2 p.m., SATURDAY, January 2.
COOMA, 2 p.m., SATURDAY, January 9.

These Steamers are of exceptional speed, and noted for their seagoing qualities. They have been specially fitted for the Queensland trade, and are provided with all the most modern appointments for the comfort of passengers.

PASSENGER TICKETS INTERCHANGEABLE with OTHER INTERSTATE S.S. COMPANIES. FULL PARTICULARS ON APPLICATION.
BOOKING OFFICES: EQUITABLE-BUILDING, 350 GEORGE-STREET.
WHARVES: FOOT of KING-STREET (Electric Trams). Telephone Nos., 1706, 1707, 1708.

THE MERRY WIDOW Shoe is made a feature at Joe Gardiner's Busy Boot Stores. Call and see it.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

YOUR Boy's Xmas Gift. Choose trains that run, boats that swim, engines that work. Jerdan's.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

WHEN the child cries for a lolly, put a penny in the slot for NESTLE'S MILK CHOCOLATE.

THE ABERDEEN LINE.
DURBAN, CAPETOWN, PLYMOUTH, AND LONDON, CALLING AT MELBOURNE AND FREMANTLE.
REGULAR SERVICE.
Discharging at Durban Wharf.

SALAMIS	4,508 tons	H. A. Schieman	Noon, Dec. 31
*†PERICLES	11,000 tons	A. Simpson	Noon, Jan. 29
*MILTIADES	6,800 tons	Douglas, R.N.R.	Noon, Feb. 26

† New Steamer. * Twin-screw.

FARES:
Saloon: London, from £57. Third-class: £16 to £20.
Cape and Durban, from £21/10/. £13/13 to £17/17/.
Return and Stop-over Tickets interchangeable with LUND'S BLUE ANCHOR LINE.
ROUND-THE-WORLD TICKETS FROM £126/10/.
SALOON CABINS on upper and bridge decks.
THIRD-CLASS ACCOMMODATION of the highest standard.
Pamphlets, Time-tables, etc., on application.
LUGGAGE received only on day of sailing.
DALGETY and COMPANY, Ltd., Agents in Australia.

WHITE STAR LINE.

DURBAN, CAPETOWN, PLYMOUTH, and LONDON.
Twin-screw Steamers.

SUEVIC, 12,500 Tons.—To sail on DECEMBER 24, at noon.
PERSIC, 12,000 Tons.—To sail about JANUARY 20.
RUNIC, MEDIC, and AFRIC to Follow.

FARES: CAPETOWN OR DURBAN, £15/15/ to £24/3/; LONDON, £19 to £30.
New York, Boston, etc., £25/5/ to £36/5/.
ONLY ONE CLASS OF ACCOMMODATION.

Pamphlets, Time-tables, and all other information on application.
LUGGAGE received only on day of Sailing.
DALGETY and CO., Limited,
Agents in Australia.

ARCH. CURRIE AND CO.'S
AUSTRALIAN AND INDIAN LINE.

STEAM TO JAVA PORTS AND SINGAPORE
(under Government Contract).

S.S. DARIUS (4650 Tons)
will be despatched for
SOURABAYA, SAMARANG, BATAVIA, and SINGAPORE,
from NEWCASTLE 24th instant.
To be followed by S.S. EURYALUS.

These two Steamers run regularly to above ports at intervals of about five weeks.
The S.S. Euryalus is available for Fruit, Meat, Butter, etc., in her refrigerating chamber.
Excellent modern passenger accommodation.
For freight and passage apply
ARCHD. CURRIE and CO.,
Tel., 3357. 63 Pitt-street.

DEVITT AND MOORE'S LINE, FOR LONDON.

THE TRAINING SHIP
PORT JACKSON,
1994 Tons, C. MAITLAND, Commander.

This fine Ship will have prompt despatch, taking cargo for London and all Continental Ports.
INSURANCES effected by me at Lloyd's at the following rates:—
Wool and (or) Tallow at 25/ % W.P.A.
General Cargo, at 25/ % F.P.A.
For freight and all other particulars apply to
W. G. DEUCHAR, Owners' Agent,
12-14 Loftus-street,
Sydney.

Wool and other Cargo received at Fitzroy Stevedoring Company, Woolloomooloo.

HUDDART, PARKER LINE.
THE FAVOURITE PASSENGER SERVICE.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND, GISBORNE, NAPIER, WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN (Transhipping to outports).
WIMMERA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, noon.
VICTORIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, noon.

WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN and BLUFF, HOBART and MELBOURNE (Transhipping to outports).
ULIMAROA, 6000 Tons, Twin Screw, SATURDAY, January 9, 2 p.m.

From MELBOURNE, via HOBART and BLUFF—
ULIMAROA, WEDNESDAY, January 27.

TASMANIA.

HOBART—
WESTRALIA, MONDAY, December 28, noon; and January 9, 19, 29.
From HOBART—
WESTRALIA, December 24; January 4, 14, 25.
LAUNCESTON—
From MELBOURNE—LOONGANA (Turbine Yacht), MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY.

MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE (transhipping to Port Pirie), ALBANY, FREMANTLE (Transhipping to Perth, North-west Ports, Geraldton).
RIVERINA, 5000 Tons, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2 p.m.
Carrying first and second Saloon and Steerage Passengers.

New Zealand Tickets for stop-over and return by Union Company's steamers, or vice versa.
Return portions of coastal tickets available by all Interstate Companies. Particulars on application.
Cargo will not be received within two hours of steamer's sailing.
For particulars apply
HUDDART, PARKER, and CO. PROPRIETARY, Ltd.
Offices: Exchange Corner, 61 Pitt-street.
Wharves: Margaret and Sussex streets.

THE ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.
EXPRESS LINE OF PASSENGER STEAMERS FROM GRAFTON WHARF.

FOR MELBOURNE,
WOLLOWRA, THIS DAY, THURSDAY, December 24, at 3 p.m.
MARLOO, 2nd Jan., 10 a.m.

FOR MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, ALBANY, FREMANTLE.
PILBARRA, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 1 p.m. Through to Geraldton, omitting Albany.
GRANTALA, SATURDAY, January 2, at 1 p.m. (Without Transhipment).

FOR GERALDTON, and all North-west Ports.
BULLARRA (From Fremantle) JANUARY 12th.

Above Steamers take Cargo for transhipment to Port Pirie, Wallaroo, Augusta, and other S.A. ports; also for Bunbury, Perth, Geraldton, and North-west ports.

BRISBANE, MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE, CAIRNS (transhipping to all other Queensland ports).
YONGALA, SATURDAY, December 26, at 12 noon. No Cargo received on Day of Sailing.
WOLLOWRA, JANUARY 2.
MARLOO, JANUARY 9.

LOWEST FARES AND FREIGHTS.
SALOON PASSAGE TICKETS are interchangeable after the first port of call with the other Interstate Companies on all services, subject to conditions which can be ascertained on application at the Company's office.
G. S. YUILL and CO., Limited, Agents,
6 Bridge-street.

THE NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER RIVER S.S. CO., LTD.

STEAM TO AND FROM NEWCASTLE AND SYDNEY.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S TIME TABLE.
1908-1909.

Day.	Date.	From Sydney.	From Newcastle.
1908.			
This Aftern.		Newcastle, 3 p.m.	Namoi, 11.30.
This Night		Hunter, midnight	Newcastle, midnight
Fri.,	Dec. 25	Namoi, midnight	Hunter, midnight.
Sat.,	Dec. 26	Hunter, midnight	Namoi, midnight.
Sun.,	Dec. 27	Namoi, midnight	Hunter, midnight.
Mon.,	Dec. 28	Hunter, 11.	Namoi, 11.30.
Tues.,	Dec. 29	Namoi, 11.	Hunter, 11.30.
Wed.,	Dec. 30	Hunter, 11.	Namoi, 11.30.
Thurs.,	Dec. 31	Namoi, midnight	Hunter, midnight.
1909.			
Fri.,	Jan. 1	Hunter, midnight	Namoi, midnight.
Sat.,	Jan. 2	Namoi, midnight	Hunter, midnight.
Sun.,	Jan. 3	Hunter, midnight	Namoi, midnight.
Mon.,	Jan. 4	Namoi, 11 p.m.	Hunter, 11.30.

HOLIDAY FARES:
Tickets will be issued at the following rates from 21st December, 1908, to 2nd January, 1909, inclusive:—
1st SALOON, 8s Return, Single 6s.
2nd SALOON, 6s Return, Single 3s 6d.
Return Tickets available for two months from date of issue. Berths in Deck Cabin 2s extra each way.

PORT STEPHENS, MYALL LAKES, AND ALL PORTS. T.S.S. KARUAH, 300 Tons, TO-MORROW (Friday), at midnight.

HAWKESBURY EXCURSIONS.

BOXING DAY, AT 10 A.M.
SATURDAY NEXT.
T.S.S. HUNTER, 1840 tons, to COWAN BAY.
S.S. NEWCASTLE, 1251 tons, to COWAN BAY.
3s, RETURN FARE, 3s.
Children, Half-price.

Cargo Arrangements as usual.

WHARF: Tram Stop, foot of King-street.
F. J. THOMAS, Manager.

TAYLOR'S WHARF, PYRMONT.

CAPE HAWKE, WALLAMBA RIVER, all parts.—BELLINGER, SATURDAY, 9 P.M.
CAMDEN HAVEN, KEW, and KENDALL.—ELLERSLIE, SATURDAY, 9 P.M.

No Cargo received after 8 p.m. This Day.

N. CAIN'S COASTAL CO-OPERATIVE STEAMSHIP COMPANY, Limited.
PORT MACQUARIE, HASTINGS and WILSON RIVERS.—S.S. WAUCHOPE, MONDAY, 1 p.m.
GEORGE McARTHUR, Secretary.
Baltic Wharf, foot of Market-street. Tel., 91 City.

MAKE your Xmas Purchases of Boots at Joe Gardiner's To-day. Open till 10 o'clock To-night.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

NESTLE'S Milk Chocolate is a wholesome, palatable, nutritious sweetmeat, and also a sustaining food.

YOUR Boy's Xmas Gift. Choose trains that run, boats that swim, engines that work. Jerdan's.

PURCHASES TILL 12 NOON WILL BE DELIVERED.

All Purchases up to 12 Noon To-day will be delivered by Christmas Eve to all Suburbs excepting Wahroonga, and those on the Illawarra Line.

"Our Daily Special Line."

A CHRISTMAS BOX OF GLOVES.
TO-DAY, 9s 6d; USUALLY 10s 6d.

This is a most attractive offer. The Gloves contained in these Boxes, if sold separately, are priced as we show below. To-day we sell them at 9/6 the Box. The Box containing the following lines:—
1 Pair of Kid or Suede Gloves, with 3 buttons 3/11
1 Pair of Merlier Suede Gloves, with 4 Buttons 4/6
1 Pair of Linen Suede Gloves, with 4 Buttons 2/6
Colours as selected.
1 Fancy Glove Box .... free.
1 Nickle Button Hook .... free.
10/11

For To-day only, the Box containing 3 pairs as above, for 9/6

If you cannot call you may telephone your Order, and letter orders from the Country sent immediately on receipt of the Newspapers announcing this "Special Line" will be executed at the Reduced Price.

A CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE PRESENTS.

Many will find that at the eleventh hour they have not purchased all their Presents, and the limited time makes it impossible to personally select them. To overcome this difficulty, call at our Glove Counter and obtain a "White House Order Book." These are in the form of Cheques, and you can make them out to any amount desired. The recipient need or need not know the amount of the order, as the Purchaser desires, but they have the possibility of choosing any goods to the amount of the order from any Department in the House.

THE TOY DEPARTMENT
IS DOWNSTAIRS.

Remember again that Purchases up till Noon will be delivered on Christmas Eve. There are hosts of attractions here, from the Big Doll's House to the Mechanical Toy, wonders at .. 1/6

ALL CALENDARS HALF-PRICE.
All our remaining Stock of Calendars are now reduced to half their marked Prices.

TOYS ARE NOT SENT CARRIAGE PAID.
Toys are not sent Carriage paid, unless ordered with other goods.

DAVID JONES, LTD.,
SYDNEY.

SHIPPING.

THE ILLAWARRA and SOUTH COAST STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, Limited,
FOR ALL SOUTH COAST PORTS.
Bars, Weather, and Other Circumstances Permitting.
FROM MARKET WHARF, foot of Market-street.

WOLLONGONG, KIAMA.—S.S. MORUYA, SATURDAY, 10 a.m.; TUESDAY, 7 p.m.
ULLADULLA.—S.S. EDEN, SATURDAY, 10 a.m. S.S. MORUYA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m.
SHELLHARBOUR.—S.S. PETERBOROUGH (Cargo), SATURDAY, 10 a.m.
BATEMAN'S BAY, NELLIGEN.—S.S. MORUYA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m.
NOWRA and BOMADERRY.—S.S. PETERBOROUGH, (Cargo), SATURDAY, 10 a.m.; TUESDAY, 7 p.m.
ALL SHOALHAVEN RIVER WHARVES, BERRY.—S.S. PETERBOROUGH (Cargo), TUESDAY, 7 p.m.
MORUYA (Direct).—S.S. HILLMEADS, THURSDAY, 12 Noon.
NAROOMA, WAGONGA.—S.S. COOMONDERRY (Cargo), THURSDAY, 12 Noon.
BERMAGUI, TATHRA, MERIMBULA, and EDEN.—S.S. TATHRA, THURSDAY, 2 p.m.; S.S. EDEN, SATURDAY, 10 a.m.; S.S. TATHRA, MONDAY, 5 p.m.
T. H. JACKSON, Manager.
Telephones: 93 and 1749. Offices and Wharves, 11 Wharf-street, foot of Market-street.

THE NORTH COAST STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
From Company's Wharf, 3 Sussex-street,
Bars and Weather Permitting.

CLARENCE RIVER.—Kyogle, Saturday, 9 p.m.; Kallatina, Tuesday, 9 p.m.
RICHMOND RIVER.—City of Grafton, This Day, 2 p.m.; Brundah, Saturday, 8 p.m.
MACLEAY RIVER.—Yulgilbar, Monday, 4 p.m.
MANNING RIVER.—Electra, Saturday, 4 p.m.
BELLINGER RIVER.—Rosedale, Monday, 7 p.m.
NAMBUCCA RIVER.—Nerong, This Day, 5 p.m.

FROM DRUITT-STREET.
BYRON BAY.—Orara, This Day, 11 p.m.; Cavanba, Saturday, 8 p.m.
COFF'S HARBOUR.—Cavanba, Saturday, 3 p.m.
CLARENCE RIVER (Pass. only).—Noorebar, Tuesday, 9 a.m. (calling Newcastle and Trial Bay).
COFF'S HARBOUR and WOOLGOOLGA.—Dorrigo, Saturday, 8 p.m.
TWEED RIVER, via Newcastle.—Duranbah, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Passenger offices: 70 Pitt-street, next Union Bank, where Guide Books can be purchased.
Tel., 164. ROBERT A. BELL, Manager.

SYDNEY TO EDEN DIRECT.
S.S. SYDNEY, 3080 tons, TUES., JAN. 5.

EDEN TO SYDNEY DIRECT:—
S.S. SYDNEY, 3000 tons, SAT., DEC. 26.
S.S. PERTH, 2300 tons, THURS., JAN. 7.

MELBOURNE STEAMSHIP CO., Ltd.,
50 Pitt-street.

S.S. WARATAH, FROM LONDON.

CONSIGNEES are requested to PASS ENTRIES at once for CENTRAL WHARF. The Steamer will not be responsible for any loss or damage to cargo after same shall have been landed. BILLS OF LADING must be produced, freight paid, and delivery orders obtained from the undersigned before any goods can be allowed to leave the wharf.

NOTICE.—Any goods impeding discharge will be ENTERED, LANDED, and STORED at Consignees' risk and expense.

GILCHRIST, WATT, and SANDERSON, Ltd.,
Agents, 7 Bent-street.

Captain ILBERY will NOT be responsible for any DEBTS contracted by his Crew without his written authority.

FINAL NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S.S. SALAMIS, FROM LONDON.

ALL CLAIMS against Inward Cargo ex the above Steamer must be rendered in Duplicate to the undersigned by Noon on MONDAY, 28th inst., otherwise they cannot be recognised.

Agents will attend at DALGETY'S WHARF, Miller's Point, at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY to adjust all claims finally.

DALGETY and COMPANY, LIMITED, Agents,
O'Connell-street.

S.S. ELVASTON.—Captain PUTT will not be responsible for any DEBTS contracted by any of his Crew while in port without his written authority. F. W. PUTT, Master.

A. E. RUDDER and Co.'s Storage Warehouse, 47 Pitt-st. Hydraulic lift, every convenience.

BOATS, Skiffs, Launches, to Sell; Boats Bought; Boats to Let, or Taken in Care.
VIPOND'S BOATSHEDS,
Tel., 542. Rushcutter Bay.

WANTED, an 8 to 10 foot Sail and Rowing Cedar Dingy. Box 1405, G.P.O.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT STREET.

JOE GARDINER'S windows in Oxford-st—Nos. 43, 45, 47, 58, 60—are a marvellous exhibition of bargains.

MAKE your Xmas Purchases of Boots at Joe Gardiner's To-day. Open till 10 o'clock To-night.

ALWAYS ask for NESTLE'S MILK CHOCOLATE Richest in Cream.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

RELIGIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

7.30 p.m.: Evensong and Carols. Short address, Ven. Archdeacon D'Arcy Irvine.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

7 a.m.: Holy Communion.
8 a.m.: Holy Communion.
10 a.m.: Morning Prayer.
11 a.m.: Choral Communion. Preacher, his Grace the Archbishop.
7.30 p.m.: Evensong and Carols. Address by Rev. W. Newmarch.

CHRIST CHURCH, ST. LAURENCE.—Christmas Day, Holy Communion, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 a.m.; Mattins, 10.30; Choral Eucharist (Schubert in B flat), Procession, and Sermon, 11 a.m. Preacher, Rev. C. E. Curtis. Litany, 7 p.m.; Evensong, Sermon, Procession, and Carols, 7.15 p.m.

First Evensong of Christmas and Carols, THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, 7.30 o'clock.

ST. JAMES', KING-STREET.—CHRISTMAS EVE: Evensong (Choral), Sermon and Carols, 7.30. CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Communion 6, 7, 8, 9, and 9.45; Mattins, 10.15; Holy Eucharist and Sermon, 11; Evensong, Sermon, and Carols, 7.30. Preacher at 11 and 7.30, Rev. W. I. Carr Smith.

ST. MARK'S, DARLING POINT.
CHRISTMAS DAY.
7 a.m., H.C.; 8 a.m., H.C. (Choral).
11 a.m., Mattins and Carols; 12.20, H.C.
5.30 p.m., Evensong.
WILLOUGHBY FLOWER, M.A., Rector.

DIVINE SERVICE, CHRISTMAS DAY.
At St. Marcus Church, R.C., Eliz.-st., Redfern. Midnight High Mass, 12.15; Morning, 8 and 11 o'c. Masses; Benediction, 7.15 p.m.

BOURKE-ST CONGREGATIONAL.—Rev. C. Whyte, M.A., Christmas Day Service, 10.30 a.m.

CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION.

CHRISTMAS DAY.
10 a.m., LYCEUM HALL.
United Service, Revs. W. G. Taylor and P. J. Stephen.
SPECIAL MUSIC. CAROLS by the Choir.
Collection for the Poor.
7.30 p.m., CONFERENCE HALL, 139 Castlereagh st.
GRAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT.
Splendid Musical Programme by Popular Artists.
GREAT DISPLAY OF SUPERB PICTURES.
Adm. Free. Silver Coin Collection for Sydney's Poor.

XMAS AT ANTHONY HORDERNS'.

OPEN TILL TEN TO-NIGHT.

TO-MORROW, XMAS DAY, SHUT.

SATURDAY, BOXING DAY, SHUT.

TO-DAY, XMAS EVE,

FOR THE ONLY DAY IN THE YEAR,

THE NEW PALACE EMPORIUM

WILL REMAIN OPEN TILL 10 P.M.

SHOP EARLY AND SHOP EASILY.

is our ADVICE, but COME EARLY or COME LATE, ALL ARE WELCOME at

THE BIGGEST XMAS SHOW.

MORE PEOPLE SHOP at the NEW PALACE EMPORIUM every DAY of the YEAR than at QUITE a LOT OF OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS PUT TOGETHER. The PROOF of what we SAY is DEMONSTRATED by the CONSTANT STREAM of PEOPLE through the FIFTY DEPARTMENTS of

THE NEW PALACE EMPORIUM,

the home of

ANTHONY HORDERNS'

FAMOUS LOW PRICES.

But the MANIFOLD ATTRACTIONS of

ANTHONY HORDERNS' XMAS SHOW

have DRAWN GREATER CROWDS to the FEAST of SEASONABLE JOYS. During the FINAL DAYS of preparation for the XMAS FESTIVITIES the vast RESOURCES of

AUSTRALIA'S MAMMOTH STORE

HAVE been TAXED to the EXTREME. EACH DAY, however, the IMMENSE RESERVES at the back of every DEPARTMENT have COME to the RESCUE, and TO-DAY the ASSORTMENT is almost as GREAT as at the OPENING of OUR XMAS SHOW; certainly the VARIETY is QUITE as CHARMING, and the COLLECTION of SEASONABLE and serviceable PRESENTS is DIVERSIFIED enough to PLEASE the most EXACTING.

Of course, WE EXPECT A BIG CROWD TO-DAY. There is a MAGNETISM ABOUT our TRADE and our method of doing BUSINESS, as well as the CHARM of ECONOMY associated with EVERYTHING we SELL, that DRAWS the PEOPLE to OUR STORE. And we have made every PREPARATION for their CONVENIENCE. The PNEUMATIC CASH SYSTEM, the largest single installation of this expeditious cash carrier south of the line, has been AUGMENTED, and special PROVISION has been MADE to PREVENT DELAY in DEPARTMENTS that call for ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE to cope with the rush of THE FINAL FLUTTER.

Within the COMPASS of a newspaper ANNOUNCEMENT it is IMPOSSIBLE to ENUMERATE ALL the DEPARTMENTS that have some SPECIAL FEATURE for the LAST DAY of the XMAS RUSH; but

PICCANINNIES' PARADISE

naturally LOOMS LARGE. Here are the DOLLS in most varied assortment of MIMIC HUMANITY, the mechanical MARVELS and the electrical WONDERS, the novelties in MAGIC LANTERNS and moving PICTURES, the miniature steam LOCOMOTIVES and STEAMSHIPS, and the instructive ENGINEERING MODELS, as well as the many HEALTH-PROMOTING TOYS, such as BICYCLES and TRICYCLES, GO-CARTS and PERAMBULATORS, COASTERS and MOTOR CARS, EXPRESS WAGGONS and ROCKING HORSES, all of which are delights to YOUNG AUSTRALIA.

PICCANINNIES' PARADISE to-day will be the HAPPY HUNTING GROUND of THOUSANDS of BOYS and GIRLS in search of the NEWEST and MOST ORIGINAL CREATIONS from the land of TOYDOM, not forgetting the LIFE-SIZE MODEL of a LION that does ALMOST EVERYTHING BUT ROAR, and the DANCING NIGGER and HIS WIFE.

FIFTEEN ACRES OF FLOOR SPACE

will be a BLAZE OF LIGHT and COLOUR, and the CHOICEST of the WORLD'S PRODUCTIONS will be ON VIEW on the SPACIOUS SHOW FLOORS.

No matter WHAT THE DEMAND MAY BE for the XMAS FEAST or the HOLIDAYS, we can SUPPLY THE WANT, and EVERYTHING we OFFER is brought UNDER the INFLUENCE of

ANTHONY HORDERNS'
FAMOUS LOW PRICES.

ANTHONY HORDERN AND SONS,
ONLY UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS,
NEW PALACE EMPORIUM,
BRICKFIELD-HILL, SYDNEY.

WHAT ABOUT A COMPASS for your holiday ramblings? We have them at all prices—reliable and compact.

W. RANDLE WOODS, 28 Victoria Market-buildings.

LOST AND FOUND.

CAMEO RING LOST, between King-st and Circular Quay, Mon. Rew., Dr. Kozminsky, 19 Hunter-st.

LEFT, Wednesday, at Farmer's, Pitt-st, Parasol, cream, red spots and lining; rwd. Office, Farmer's.

LEFT tram, 2.45 La Perouse, Sil.-mtd. Umbrella. Reward, Mrs. Barton, Gerber-st, Alexandria.

LOST, a Pink Parrot. Reward, Munnarloo, Queen-st, Mosman.

LOST, Coolgardie Brooch, Glassop-st or Fitzroy-ave, South Belgravia, Gow-st, Balmain.

LOST, Sun., St. Benedict's or school, Gold-rim, Glasses, red case. Rew., 39 Thomas-st, Redfern.

LOST, Tuesday night, M'kville Brass Band, B flat Bass Selection Book. J. Fraser, tailor, M'kville.

LOST, Monday night, St. Thomas's Concert, G. Pin, Map of Aust. attached. Rew., 63 Palace-st, Pdtn.

LOST, Pkt. Book, ctg. letter, ticket boxing contest. Reward retg. to Mail Boy, Marrickville.

LOST, Sat. night, Gold Watch Bracelet; handsome reward on ret. to 26 Hordern-st, Newtown.

LOST, bet. Darlinghurst and Jersey-rd, Gold Locket, with chain; reward, 140 Paddington-st.

LOST in ferry or tram, betw. Milson's Pt. and city, Paper Parcel. 6 Fitzroy-st, Milson's Point.

LOST, Wed., Manly and Milson's Pt., Gold Watch, wrist band, init. J.E.R. Rew., 6C Fitzroy-st, M.P.

LOST, Tuesday, Gold Brooch, set with amethyst. Reward, 43 Selwyn-st, Moore Park.

LOST, POCKETBOOK, Wednesday morning, Marble Bar. Please return to 200 Pitt-st.

LOST, Papers, Bill-book, addressed W. Moseley. Finder kindly return to Stone, 42 York-st.

LOST, bet. Mosman and King-st, Bangle, Turquoise, Pearls. Reward, H.A.V., Scot. A. Coy., Phillip-st.

LOST, a Gold Curb Bangle, between Grand Central, G.P.O., and West Pdtn. Rew. J. C., Grand Cent.

LOST, 16th, Fox-terrier PUP, red ears and red eye. Reward, E. Resch, Swifts, Darling Point.

LOST, Umbrella, off tram at Neutral, Mosman Bay ferry at Quay. Reward at 227 George-st.

LOST, the Morning Headache now that I stick to DICKENS WHISKY.

LADY, seen to pick up Cable Bracelet, Medal attached, in first-class Ladies' Waiting-rm., Sydney Stn., Dec. 23, return, save further trouble, to WALES, Lynwood, Wardell-road, Marrickville.

LOST, at Manly, a set of four FALSE TEETH. If found kindly return to
47 Macquarie-street, Circular Quay;
or The Avon, Manly.

LOST in Dulwich Hill tram, or between the Parramatta River Ferry and Frankfort Sausage Company, PARCEL, containing Muslin Blouse. Reward.
NUTTE, 29 O'Connell-street.

LOST, between Adolphus-street, Balmain, and Mansfield-street, Rozelle, a Lady's Silver WATCH; reward.
205 William-street, Darlinghurst.

LOST, young FOX-TERRIER DOG, white, with uneven black and tan on face only; 5s reward.
Aberdour, Shirley-road,
Wollstonecraft.

LOST, on Manly Beach, Purse containing Money and Key. Finder keep money, return keys to
THOS. COOK and SON,
Challis House, Martin-place, city.

REWARD £1.—Lost, Black and Tan Sheepdog (bitch), named Swan, Saturday, 29 Meagher-st, city.

STRAYED from Alexandria, Black Gelding, branded (2 (2 sidew.), n. shldr. Rew. Harris, 42 Druitt-st.

TUES. morn., bet. Ashfield and Cir. Q., G. Mourning Brooch, keepsake. Rew., 20 John-st, Ashfield.

FOR Sale, 1 Red Cow, 1 Red and White Cow, W.J.E. and other brds. John Farrell, Poundkeeper, Manly.

FOUND, SILK BLOUSE. Apply Glen, P.O., Enmore.

COAL, FIREWOOD, ETC.

HOWARD SMITH CO., LTD.,
Coal Depot: Pyrmont Bridge-road, Blackwattle Bay. Newcastle and Maitland Coals. Household, Steaming (Large and small), and Blacksmiths'.
Telephone, Glebe 802.

FIREWOOD MERCHANTS.—Cheapest Line Firewood on the market, in 8-ton truck loads, regular supplies. Price and particulars from
H. McKENZIE, Limited, Glebe Island.

AT Joe Gardiner's you get high value and low prices in footwear. Does that suit your pocket?

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

A GOOD cause makes a stout heart. Nestle's Food builds great constitutions for Infants.

AMUSEMENT with education for your boy, Mechanical Models, Magic Lanterns, from 2s 6d. Jerdan's.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1908.

INTERSTATE FARES.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued at certain New South Wales Stations to the principal QUEENSLAND, VICTORIAN, and SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATIONS, until FRIDAY, January 1.

These tickets will be available for return for 3 months from date of issue, but tickets issued to Melbourne and other Victorian stations will not be available by the Express Trains except on payment of the difference between the Holiday Excursion and Ordinary rates. The journey may be broken for one month going, and during the currency of ticket on return.

CHEAP EXCURSION TRAINS.

In addition to the usual Cheap Excursion Tickets KETS issued on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as shown in the Penny Time Table Book, similar tickets at 2d per mile First-class Return (minimum 2s) and 1d per mile Second-class Return (minimum 1s) will be issued by the undermentioned down trains to and from all Stations at which the trains are timed to call, as far as Nowra, Goulburn, Bathurst, and Newcastle, inclusive. The fares to Waratah and Stations north thereof, also to Stations on the Cooma, Crookwell, and Mudgee lines, and to Orton Park and Stations west thereof, will be at the Rate of Single Fare and a Quarter for the Double Journey (minimum rates 2s first-class and 1s second-class).

CHEAP TRAINS FROM SYDNEY.
NORTHERN LINE.

TO-DAY (THURSDAY).—7.35 a.m. to Newcastle; 11.0 a.m. to Tamworth; 3.55 p.m. to Newcastle (to Stations north of Gosford); 4.15 p.m. to Gosford; 7.24 p.m. to Tamworth (to Stations north of West Maitland); 8.5 p.m. to Gosford; 8.15 p.m. and 11.15 p.m. to Newcastle and West Maitland.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—7.35 a.m. to Newcastle.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—7.35 a.m. to Newcastle.

WESTERN LINE.

TO-DAY (Thursday).—8.10 a.m. to Mount Victoria (to Lawson and Stations west thereof), 8.28 a.m. to Mt. Victoria (to Stations, Penrith to Hazelbrook, inclusive), 3.25 p.m. to Orange (to Hartley Vale and Stations west thereof); 4.0 p.m. to Katoomba; 4.55, 5.26, and 5.29 p.m. to Mt. Victoria; 7.50 p.m. to Stations on the Mudgee line; 9.10 p.m. to Orange (to Bowenfels and Stations west thereof); 9.15 p.m. to Eskbank; 11.20 p.m. to Bathurst.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—7.52 a.m. to Eskbank; 8.28 a.m. to Mt. Victoria (to stations, Penrith to Hazelbrook, inclusive).

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—8.10 a.m. to Eskbank (to Lawson and Stations west thereof); 6.12 p.m. to Mt. Victoria.

SOUTHERN LINE.

TO-DAY (Thursday).—8.0 a.m. to Goulburn; 4.5 p.m. to Bundanoon; 5.0 p.m. to Goulburn; 5.15 p.m. to Camden and Goulburn; 8.25 p.m. to Stations on the Cooma and Crookwell lines; 11.25 p.m. to Camden and Goulburn; 11.45 p.m. to Campbelltown.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—8.0 a.m. to Goulburn; 8.55 a.m. to Camden (to stations on the Camden line only).

ILLAWARRA LINE.

TO-DAY (Thursday).—1.25 and 1.30 p.m. to Kiama; 2.45 p.m. to Nowra; 5.24 p.m. to Wollongong; 5.55 p.m. to Nowra (to Stations Unanderra to Nowra); 8.0 p.m. to Kiama; 11.35 p.m. to Nowra.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—7.30 a.m. to Nowra; 7.38 a.m. to Wollongong.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—7.8 and 7.38 a.m. to Wollongong; 7.30 a.m. to Nowra. The 8.5 a.m. ordinary train, Sydney to Wollongong, will not run on Saturday, Dec. 26, the Cheap Tickets being issued by special train leaving Sydney at 8.27 a.m. in lieu thereof.

CHEAP TICKETS at the Rate of Single Fare and a Quarter for the Double Journey (minimum 2s First Class and 1s Second Class) will be issued by the undermentioned trains to Sydney, and also to and from all Stations at which the trains are timed to call.

Exceptions.—By the trains leaving West Maitland for Sydney at 5.10 a.m. and 5.45 a.m., and leaving Newcastle for Sydney at 5.55 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, the fares ordinarily charged on Fridays and Saturdays (by trains, and to and from the stations, specified on page 14 of Penny Time-table Book) will apply. The fares to and from other stations to be at the Rate of Single Fare and a Quarter for the Double Journey—minimum fares, 2s First-class, and 1s Second-class.

CHEAP TRAINS TO SYDNEY.
NORTHERN LINE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—5.10 a.m. and 5.45 a.m. from West Maitland; 5.55 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. from Newcastle.

WESTERN LINE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—12.2 a.m. from Eskbank; 12.40 a.m. from Bathurst (from Bowenfels and Stations west thereof).

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—6.15 a.m. from Mt. Victoria (from Emu Plains and Stations west thereof).

SOUTHERN LINE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—12.15 a.m. and 4.25 a.m. from Goulburn.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—4.25 a.m. from Goulburn; 6.23 a.m. from Moss Vale.

ILLAWARRA LINE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25.—4.35 a.m. from Nowra.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—4.35 a.m. from Nowra; 6.35 a.m. from Wollongong.

These Tickets will be available for return within one calendar month from date of issue.

Tickets issued in the Down direction (from Sydney and intermediate Stations) will be available for return by any train.

Tickets issued to Sydney and other Stations in the Up direction will not be available for return by the bourne Express or Mail trains.

For full particulars of times of trains at intermediate Stations, etc., see handbills obtainable from all Stationmasters.

By order,
(11-188) H. McLACHLAN, Secretary.

New South Wales Government Railways,
Office of the Chief Commissioners,
Sydney, December 23, 1908.

TENDERS will be received at this office until Noon on the dates specified for the undermentioned Works, Supplies, etc.:—

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1908.

THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF STEEL AND IRON WORK from the battery-room of the new City Substation. Plans, Specifications, etc., Tramway Engineer's Office, 39 Phillip-street, Sydney.

MONDAY, 4th JANUARY, 1909.

THE SUPPLY OF FODDER FOR HORSES, Tramway Department, to 30th June, 1909. Particulars, Railway Stores, Eveleigh.

THE MANUFACTURE OF 100 TABLET HOLDER BRACKETS. Particulars, Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, Wilson-street, Eveleigh.

MONDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1909.

THE SUPPLY OF LUBRICATING OILS FOR RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS, during the year ending 30th June, 1910. A condition of tendering is that tenderers must submit, on or before 21st January, 1909, samples of one gallon each of the oils for which they propose to tender. Full particulars, Railway Stores, Eveleigh.

Tenders are to be endorsed "Tender for Fodder," or as the case may be. The Chief Commissioner does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order.
H. McLACHLAN, Secretary.

CENTRAL RAILWAY CAFE, ON PLATFORM OF SYDNEY STATION.

3-COURSE DINNER, 1s.

AFTERNOON TEAS; Ices, Strawberries, Fruit, and Confectionery, Cakes, etc.
Tobacco and Cigars, Pipes, etc.
MEALS OBTAINABLE FROM 6 A.M. TILL 11.30 P.M.
OPEN SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.
LARGEST, COOLEST, AND BEST APPOINTED REFRESHMENT ROOMS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.
P. HART, Lessee.

AMUSEMENTS.

DAILY HEALTH CHATS at THE LADIES' COLLEGE OF HEALTH, 177 Liverpool-st (next Unitarian Church), Sydney. Mornings 10 to 12, Afternoons 2 to 4. To-day's Subject: "THE MOTHER'S HEALTH." Most valuable information and advice given; how impaired health may be restored; how good health is maintained; a natural and reliable Home Treatment. ADMISSION ENTIRELY FREE. Printed particulars of Home Treatment sent on receipt of 3d postage.

UPPER LANE COVE FERRY, Ltd.—Connecting with steamers leaving No. 7 Jetty, Circular Quay. EXCURSION TRIPS, week days and Sundays, at 10 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.; Saturdays, 1.45 p.m. Seven miles of beautiful scenery. The Fairyland of Sydney Harbour. Return Fares, 1s 6d; Children, 9d.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS. OPEN 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. WEEK DAYS, 2 TO 5 P.M. SUNDAYS.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
May be useful as well as beautiful.

We have a large selection of such articles as SCREENS, EASY CHAIRS, TABOURETTES, Shelves, Cupboards, Occasional Tables, Palm Stands, Cushion Covers, Serviettes, Lace Tray Cloths, Rugs, and a hundred and one other articles that are low in price, but extremely useful, and would admirably serve the purpose of Christmas Souvenirs.

Whilst in Town, visitors should call and see our Specimen Furnished Rooms, which have been specially designed to show Furniture in its natural surroundings.

All Goods marked in Plain Figures.

BEARD, WATSON, LTD.,
361-363 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.

PROFESSOR A. ROSENBAUM, the most marvellous Penman (two-fingered) on earth, will give an EXHIBITION OF PENMANSHIP, and will write the Lord's Prayer three or more times on th space of a threepenny piece at the SYDNEY SCHOOL OF ARTS, on the 28th DECEMBER, at 3 p.m. All cordially invited. W. A. CARTER, Advance Agent, Sydney School of Arts.

CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—The Best Place to Spend an Enjoyable Day.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

THE MERRY WIDOW.
HOLIDAY MATINEES.
BOXING DAY, AT 2
BOXING DAY, AT 2
(SATURDAY NEXT).

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager ....J. C. WILLIAMSON.
TO-NIGHT, AT 7.50.
Fourth Month in Sydney. LAST SEVEN NIGHTS. LAST SEVEN NIGHTS. LAST SEVEN NIGHTS. Fourth Month in Sydney.
THE ROYAL COMIC OPERA COMPANY will To-night register 195 Performances in Australia of
THE MERRY WIDOW.
THE MERRY WIDOW.
THE MERRY WIDOW.
AS COSMOPOLITAN AS CHRISTMAS.
THE WHOLE WORLD HAS ACKNOWLEDGED IT.
Country Visitors should not leave the City without going to hear
THE CENTURY'S MUSICAL SUCCESS.
LAST SEVEN NIGHTS.
LAST SEVEN NIGHTS.
LAST SEVEN NIGHTS.
"The best of friends must part."
ABSOLUTELY NO FREE LIST.
Prices as usual. Box Plan at Paling's till 5 p.m., and thereafter at Her Majesty's Theatre Office. Day Sale at Callose's. Children in arms not admitted.
J. C. WILLIAMSON.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
THIS THEATRE WILL BE CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26.
AFTERNOON At 2. and EVENING, At 7.50.
THE MERRY WIDOW.

HER MAJESTY'S. JANY. 2, 1909.
The J. C. WILLIAMSON
ROYAL COMIC OPERA COMPANY,
to appear in the Romantic Opera,
"THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC."
"THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC."
Book and Lyrics by HENRY HAMILTON. Music by IVAN CARYLL.
Produced by arrangement with Mr. George Edwardes.
PRELIMINARY BOOKING.
Preliminary booking applications by others than yearly first-nighters (to whom seats for all first nights in the year were allotted on December 1 inst), will be received up to and inclusive of Monday, 28th inst. Applications to be in writing, addressed to the Business Manager, Her Majesty's Theatre, and to be accompanied by cheque or postal note for the number of seats required.
Applications may cover every first night for a year ending December 1 next, and will be filed and seats allotted in the order that they are received.
The Box Plan for the preliminary booking, at 7/6, will be open on Tuesday at Paling's, and for ordinary booking on Wednesday, 30th inst.
J. C. WILLIAMSON.

DANCING LESSONS.—INTERSTATE and COUNTRY TEACHERS of DANCING.—VISITORS, etc, desirous of tuition in THE NEW DANCES, etc, may arrange convenient appointments PRIVATELY.
MR. AND MRS. ROBERTS, 160 PHILLIP-STREET.

THE SYDNEY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.
Conductor, Mr. JOSEPH BRADLEY.
THE GREAT XMAS FESTIVAL,
THE "MESSIAH" (HANDEL),
TOWN HALL, XMAS AFTERNOON, at 3.15.
Artists:
Madame GRACE MILLER WARD (Soprano),
Miss ESTELLE MABEL WARD (Contralto),
Mr. HARRY NEIL (Tenor),
Mr. CHARLES ROSENTHAL (Bass).
CHORUS and ORCHESTRA, 400.
Mr. J. M. CARTER, Leader of Orchestra;
Mr. ERNEST TRUMAN at the Great Organ.
THE PEOPLE'S ANNUAL CONCERT at the usual Popular Prices—3s (Reserved), 2s, and 1s.
PLAN AND TICKETS AT PALING'S.
Doors at 2.30 p.m.
WILLIAM JOHNSON, Hon. Treas.; ROBERT B. BARTON, Hon. Sec., c.o. Messrs. Paling and Co., Ltd., George-street.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
HOLIDAY MATINEE,
BOXING DAY, AT 2
BOXING DAY, AT 2
(Saturday, December 26).

THEATRE ROYAL.
Lessee and Manager ...... J. C. WILLIAMSON.
JULIUS KNIGHT SEASON.
TO-NIGHT AT 8 O'CLOCK.
A PLAY THAT WILL LIVE FOR EVER.
THE HIGHEST PITCH OF ENTHUSIASM IS NIGHTLY REACHED BY GREAT AUDIENCES IN THEIR RECEPTION OF THE LATE MR. WILSON BARRETT'S VITAL DRAMA,
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
THE GALLERY IS NOT MORE PRODIGAL OF APPLAUSE THAN THE DRESS CIRCLE OR THE STALLS, AND EACH PERFORMANCE RESULTS IN ONE OF THOSE GLORIOUS EVENINGS, REFRESHING ALIKE TO PLAY-GOERS AND PLAYERS.
A TELLING ARTISTIC PRODUCTION, by AN EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL CAST.
Mr. JULIUS KNIGHT......as......MARCUS SUPERBUS
Miss BEATRICE DAY....as.....................MERCIA
POSITIVELY NO FREE LIST.
Box Plan at Nicholson's. Prices as usual.
J. C. WILLIAMSON.

THEATRE ROYAL.
THIS THEATRE WILL BE CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26.
AFTERNOON, AT 2. EVENING, AT 8.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

BIJOU PICTURE PALACE.
CHRISTMAS WEEK.
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. MATINEE, CHRISTMAS DAY, 2.30. MATINEE, BOXING DAY, 2.30.
PROGRAMME SAME AS EVENING.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. To Suit the Festive Season.
PRICES, 1s 6d, 1s, and SIXPENCE.
CHILDREN HALF-PRICE TO ALL PARTS.

BIJOU PICTURE PALACE
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE
(BIJOU AMUSEMENTS, LIMITED),
ESPECIALLY BUILT FOR CINEMATOGRAPH EXHIBITIONS.
GEORGE-STREET, OPP. RAILWAY STATION.
All Penny Trams stop right opposite.
TO-NIGHT AND EVERY EVENING, AT 8 O'CLOCK.
MATINEES WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.30.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. COOLEST AND BEST VENTILATED PLACE IN SYDNEY. FOUR LARGE SLIDING ROOFS.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. CHRISTMAS.
By special request, will be repeated for this week only.
Showing different Customs of every Country from the Christian Era to the present day.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. ADESTE FIDELES. PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF GEMS FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST PRODUCERS,
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. AND SHOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AUSTRALIA.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. WE GUARANTEE THE PICTURES TO BE THE VERY BEST, THE LATEST, BRIGHTEST, LARGEST, STEADIEST, AND NO FLICKER.
PRICES: 1/6, 1/, AND SIXPENCE.

PROGRAMME OF OUR NEW FILMS FOR SALE OR HIRE EVERY WEEK, ON ACCOUNT OF OUR COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME WEEKLY.

WONDERLAND CITY.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT (TO-MORROW, FRIDAY)
A GRAND CLASSICAL CONCERT will be given in THE KING'S THEATRE.
The beautiful film Parsifal, or the History of the Holy Grail.
Musical Selections by the Wonderland Band.
ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING.

THE OPALINE PLAQUE.
THE OPALINE PLAQUE.
THE OPALINE PLAQUE.

THE OPALINE PLAQUE IS A NEW CREATION IN DAINTY PHOTOGRAPHY. AT THE PRESENT TIME IN LONDON AND PARIS IT IS CREATING QUITE A FURORE OF ADMIRATION. WE HAVE A LARGE SHIPMENT OF THESE OPALINES. SO FAR AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN, WE ARE THE ONLY STUDIO IN SYDNEY WHO HAVE THIS DAINTY LITTLE NOVELTY (I.E., A CONCAVE OPALINE, SAUCER SHAPE) ON WHICH YOUR PHOTOGRAPH MAY BE PRINTED DIRECT, GIVING IT THE EFFECT OF HAVING BEEN BURNT INTO THE OPAL, AND WHEN SUITABLY FRAMED IT IS MOST CHARMING. WE ARE NOW SUPPLYING THE PUBLIC WITH THESE BEAUTIFUL OPALINE PLAQUES FRAMED COMPLETE WITH ANY ORDER FOR PHOTOGRAPHS THAT MAY BE GIVEN. THE OPALINE PLAQUE HAS BEEN BADLY COUNTERFEITED IN LONDON, WHERE SOME OF THE CHEAPER CLASS OF PHOTOGRAPHERS USE AN ORDINARY FLAT PIECE OF OPAL, ON WHICH THEY PUT THE PHOTOGRAPH, AND THEN GET A CIRCULAR FRAME MADE ON THE DISH (I.E., SOMETHING IN SHAPE LIKE A SOUP PLATE), AND PUT THE FLAT OPAL BEHIND THIS FRAME, WHICH GIVES IT THE APPEARANCE OF A CONCAVE OPAL. THE DEVICE IS MOST INGENIOUS, AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, IT IS SAID, HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY IT.

GET YOUR PHOTO TAKEN NOW.

THREE CHRISTMAS OFFERS. THREE

FIRST OFFER.

12 Rococo Cabinets and an Enlargement, Framed in Real Australian Oak, and finished in first-class style, and far better than usually sold at double this price. Only 10/6. Excellent value.

SECOND OFFER.

2nd.—12 Bromide Cabinets and a Beautifully Framed Enlargement for 15/6. Please note that this is a remarkable offer, and one worthy the attention of those desirous of an up-to-date and artistic picture. YOU SHOULD SEE THIS OFFER.

THIRD OFFER, A GREAT EFFORT.

Ever since we have been in Sydney we have made a special offer for our Christmas customers. Therefore, we now make our

EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER.

And in doing so we assure our friends that we have bent our whole strength to make this positively the best offer ever made in first-class photography.

Absolutely the most astounding value ever BEFORE THE PUBLIC, viz., ONE DOZEN Cabinet Portraits, mounted on our new artistic mount and an ENLARGEMENT, framed in a most expensive Frame, for 21/.

GET YOUR PHOTO, 10/6.
GET YOUR PHOTO, 15/6.
GET YOUR PHOTO, 21/.

Size of Frame, 26 x 22 inches.

NOTE.—The frames are of the best Quality three-ply Veneer Imported Oak, the whole frame being cut out of a large sheet of oak, and in only one piece. There are no joins in it. Splendid value. Please call and see it. Truly a wonderful offer and marvellous value. SPECIMENS ARE NOW ON VIEW. Do not overlook it. The ENLARGEMENT IS FRAMED at this price. To each sitter for this special offer we will supply proofs of three different positions, WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE; therefore everyone will be sure to get satisfactory results. It has taken many years of constant effort to build up our splendid reputation for HIGH ART WORK, and you may feel assured that every order (even at this very low price) will receive our best attention, and the work will be our very best, and will prove a pleasure to our customers, and a credit to our good name.

GET YOUR PHOTO. TAKEN NOW, 21/6.
WET OR CLOUDY WEATHER MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO OUR INSTANTANEOUS PROCESS. WE TAKE JUST AS GOOD PHOTOS AFTER DARK AS DURING THE DAY.
OPEN ALL DAY SATURDAY TILL 9 O'CLOCK.

THE CROWN STUDIOS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Our Night Studio is open on Saturday Evenings from 5.30 to 9 o'clock.
DON'T.
Do not mistake our Studios. We are right next to Roberts's Hotel. Open until 5.30 daily; also Saturdays and Holidays.

THE CROWN STUDIOS,
448 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY (NEXT TO ROBERTS'S HOTEL).
Our NEW STUDIOS, directly opposite Lassetter's (448 George-street), are the FINEST IN THE WORLD.

AN EDISON PHONOGRAPH

MAKES A SUITABLE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
OUR PRICES ARE THE LOWEST.
EDISON RECORDS.
CHRISTMAS CAROLS, CHRISTMAS SONGS.
SIX NEW TITLES BY HARRY LAUDER.
WE WILL BE OPEN TILL 10 O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT.
THE LARGEST STOCKS IN AUSTRALIA.

STERLING PHONOGRAPH PARLOURS,
299 PITT-STREET, SYDNEY
(OPP. CRITERION THEATRE).

YOU WILL TEST YOUR STOVE THIS WEEK.

The extra amount of cooking at Christmas will be a good test for your oven. If it fails to satisfy you, investigate the merits of the Success No. 2—a stove that will cost you only 47/6. It weighs 1jcwt, and is solidly built in every part. Its fuel consumption is 25 per cent. less than that of any other make, and it will last a lifetime. Call and see specimens, or write for our illustrated catalogue.

W. T. CARMICHAEL, DEPT. H., MARRICKVILLE, SYDNEY.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harry Rickards.
Treasurer ...... Mr. Edward H. Mass.
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS' NEW TIVOLI VAUDEVILLE AND SPECIALTY COMBINATION.
Our Artists are the Absolute Leaders of Vaudeville. Positively the LAST NIGHT in Sydney of England and America's Society Entertainers,
FRANK AND JEN. THE LATONAS. THE LATONAS. THE LATONAS. FRANK AND JEN.
They close their Sydney Season TO-NIGHT (Thursday).
The Popular and Celebrated London Burlesque Comedian,
Mr. J. W. RICKABY, Mr. J. W. RICKABY,
Mr. J. W. RICKABY, Mr. J. W. RICKABY,
GOODFELLOW and GREGSON,
GOODFELLOW and GREGSON,
In their Original Sketch, "Burning to Sing."
Continued Brilliant Reception Nightly of
THE SISTERS RENO. THE SISTERS RENO.
THE SISTERS RENO. THE SISTERS RENO.
In their Refined and Artistic Specialty Dancing.
GUEST and NEWLYN,
Presenting their Original Interlude of Hebrew Humour.
KATHLEEN GOLDIE, THE FOUR MASCOTTS,
Mr. TOM DAWSON, MISS NITA LEETE,
MISS GERTIE JOHNS ROCHFORT and HART.
RUBY WALLACE,
PRICES: 3s, 2s 6d, 2s, and 1s.
Box Plan at W. H. Paling and Co., George-street.
General Manager, JOHN C. LEETE.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
Mr. RICKARDS has much pleasure in announcing that on
SATURDAY NEXT, BOXING DAY,
he will introduce to his Patrons practically a new company of imported Stars from England, America, and the Continent of Europe.
First appearance in Sydney of Two of the Idols of Paris, from the Follies Bergeres,
AMALIA and LEONORA,
Marvels of Athletic Powers.
CRISTOFOLO,
Juggler and Equilibrist.
Miss AMBER AUSTA,
Eccentric Comedienne and Dancer.
Mr. WILL HAINES, Vocal Character Comedian.
And now comes one of Australia's greatest favourite Comedians, after an absence in England of eight years,
Mr. CHARLES FANING.
FANING and FANING, CHARLOTTA,
Mr. FRANK YORKE, Mr. LES. WARTON.
And still another reappearance, after an absence of over three years, of
THE SCOTTISH MEISTERSINGERS,
arriving by the R.M.S. Orotava.

MANDOLIN, VIOLIN, GUITAR, BANJO TUITION, by Mr. FRANCIS ROBT. PEEL and Assistants. THE SYDNEY ORCHESTRAL COLLEGE, Peel's Studios, 5 Hunter-street.

MISS ETHEL CLIFFORD, Ballet Mistress, etc., I.O.O.F. Temple, Eliz.-st. Classes and Priv. Less. SUSPENDED till FEB. 1st, 1909. Letters during holidays to Palace Theat., city.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
EXHIBITION BUILDING,
PRINCE ALFRED PARK.
THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENT.
MADAME SPADA will Sing—
Air—"I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" (Messiah) Handel.
Song—"Ave Maria," with Violin and Harp obligati.
And in the Duet,
"My Song Shall be Alway Thy Mercy" (Hymn of Praise) Mendelssohn,
with Mr. PHILIP NEWBURY.
Miss RUBY RICCARDI will Sing—
Air—"He was Despised" (Messiah) .... Handel.
Song—"Ave Maria" .... Lucci
Mr. ERIC HARRISON will Sing—
Song—"Nazareth" .... Gounod.
MR. PHILIP NEWBURY
WILL SING—
Recit. and Air—"Comfort Ye" and "Ev'ry Valley" (Messiah) ...... Handel.
Song—"Noel" .... Adam
and
THE PASSION MUSIC,
from
THE MESSIAH.
Solo Pianiste, Miss KATHLEEN BEATTIE. Accompanist, Mr. ERNEST TRUMAN; Violinist, M. HENRI STAELL.
THE PASSION PLAY,
Special appearance of Signor TORZILLO, Harpist. Christmas Fantasia (Thomas), and other items.
The Greatest Biograph Picture in Existence.
Admission, 2s and 1s; Reserved Seats, 2s 6d, at Nicholson's.
EXHIBITION BUILDING PICTURES.
PRINCE ALFRED PARK.
TO-NIGHT.
Last Night of Present Programme.
SATURDAY NIGHT,
Entirely new Series of Pictures.
ADMISSION, 1s and 6d.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.
WATSON'S AND PARSLEY BAYS.
THE CHILDREN'S PARADISE.
BEAUTIFUL BEACHES.
CLOVELLY PARK (one minute walk from steamer).
THE IDEAL PICNIC GROUND.
The Favourite Steamers, including the Latest addition to the Fleet,
S.S. VAUCLUSE
(The Cock o' the Walk),
Every 15 Minutes from No. 2 Jetty, Circular Quay.
RETURN, 6d. CHILDREN, 3d. SINGLE, 4d.
WATSON'S AND PARSLEY BAYS.

CENTENARY HALL, YORK-STREET.
XMAS NIGHT, DECEMBER 25, 1908.
CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT.
Sutherland District Choral Union (50 voices), Mrs. Melville's Juvenile Choristers (40 voices). Assisting Artists:—Miss Gertrude Curran (Contralto), Miss Ruby Peers (Mezzo Soprano), Miss Lulu Wolstenholme (Pianist), Miss Ivy Allen (Violinist), The Australian Quintette Expert Banjo and Mandolin Players, Master Ernest Crawford (phenomenal Boy Alto), Mr. W. Murden (Tenor), Mr. Mel. B. Barker (Musical Monologues), Mr. Carl Hasting (Baritone)—a most interesting programme, details of which see To-morrow's advertisement. Popular Prices, 3/, 2/, and 1/. All tickets, programmes, etc., may be secured, Messrs. BEALE and CO., LTD., 378 George-street.
CHARLES GOODMAN, Organiser.

MAKE your Xmas Purchases of Boots at Joe Gardiner's To-day. Open till 10 o'clock To-night.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON MOSMAN BAY.
TO-NIGHT, 8.30.
Magnificent Illuminations on the Foreshores. Hundreds of Illuminated Small Boats on the Water. GREAT BARGE FOR THE CHOIR and ORCHESTRA.
MISS ERNESTINE LOUAT WILL SING, "O DIVINE REDEEMER" and "REJOICE GREATLY."
Collection in aid of the North Shore Hospital.

BILLIARDS IN HALL (upstairs), NEXT QUEEN'S HALL, PITT-STREET.
THIS AFTERNOON AT 3, EVENING AT 8.
FRED. LINDRUM
v.
GEORGE GRAY.
MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY.
On Alcock Standard Table. Crystallate Balls.
ADMISSION: 1s, 2s. Reserved Chairs, 3s.
Box Plan at Hall. FRED. FARELL, Manager.

AUSTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB.
SUMMER MEETING.
BOXING DAY,
SATURDAY, 26th DECEMBER.
FIRST RACE, HALF-PAST 12 O'CLOCK.
T. S. CLIBBORN, Sec.

TATTERSALL'S CLUB.
RANDWICK RACECOURSE.
WEDNESDAY, 30th DECEMBER, 1908.
FRIDAY, 1st JANUARY, 1909.
TRAINERS and JOCKEYS' TICKETS will be issued on THURSDAY, 24th INST., up to 4 p.m., at No. 2 Office, Tattersall's Club-chambers.
J. R. OLLIFFE, Secretary.

CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—Dancing 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. 1s. Boxsell's Band.

YOU can't get Boots at Joe Gardiner's To-morrow or Saturday. His two stores Closed both days.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

CRITERION THEATRE.
THE BOX PLANS
For the Opening Nights of
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY"
Are now on view at ELVY'S Music Warehouse.

CRITERION THEATRE.
Lessee .... Mr. FRANK MUSGROVE.
Sub-Lessee and Manager .... WILLIAM ANDERSON.
GRAND XMAS ATTRACTION,
NEXT SATURDAY, DEC. 26 (BOXING NIGHT),
And Every Evening.
GREAT PRODUCTION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SYDNEY
of
WILLIAM ANDERSON'S
Latest Dramatic Purchase, the Successful Drury Lane Drama,
THE GAYEST OF THE GAY.
THE GAYEST OF THE GAY.
THE GAYEST OF THE GAY.
THE GAYEST OF THE GAY.
in 4 Acts, written by Messrs. Arthur Shirley and Eric Hudson.
THIS GREAT ATTRACTION
will be interpreted by the following BRILLIANT CAST:—
EUGENIE DUGGAN as Kate Latimer, afterwards Belle Bascombe and Susan Meredith (her sister).
Lena Langridge ....as Doris Daintree.
Virgie Robinson .... as Nellie Burns.
Gertrude Linden ....as Flossie Esmonds.
Enid Bowman ....as Leane Vandry.
George Cross ....as Jack Latimer.
Lawrence Dunbar ....as Hubert Steele.
J. H. Nunn ....as Sir Francis Hardinge.
George Carey ....as Barney O'Brien.
Percy Walshe ....as Jake Howland.
Temple Harrison ....as Percy Pelgrave.
Walter Dalgleish ....as Frank Draycott.
Max Clifton ....as Richard Hope.
Popular Prices: 3/, 2/, 1/6, and One Shilling. Box Plan at Elvy's. Booking Fee, 1/.
Business Manager, JULIUS GRANT.

GLACIARIUM.
TO-MORROW, CHRISTMAS NIGHT, CHRISTMAS NIGHT, CHRISTMAS NIGHT, TO-MORROW,
WEST'S PICTURES
and
DE GROEN'S VICE-REGAL BAND,
in
A PROGRAMME OF MANY SURPRISES.
A PROGRAMME OF MANY SURPRISES.
A PROGRAMME OF MANY SURPRISES.

GLACIARIUM.
DIRECTION OF T. J. WEST.
NIGHTLY, at 8; MATINEES, WED. and SAT., at 2.30.
1d TRAMS PASS THE DOOR EVERY FEW SECONDS. 1d
THE HOME OF
BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHFUL PICTURES,
Pre-eminent and Incomparable. The Best of All,
WEST'S PICTURES.
WEST'S PICTURES.
WEST'S PICTURES.
Continued Record Change of Programme.
SOME STAR ITEMS OF THE WEEK.
THE DESTRUCTION OF HYDERABAD,
THE WOMAN PAYS,
or
THE PLANTER'S WIFE.
Repetition by General Desire of the Great Successes,
CHRISTMAS,
including the HALLELUJAH CHORUS from Handel's "Messiah."
ITALIAN CAVALRY AT SENSATIONAL WORK.
THE MERRY WIDOW, No. 3 EDITION.
And, in addition,
AN ALL NEW STAR PROGRAMME.
And there are others, Scenic, Dramatic, and Comic.
30 DE GROEN'S VICE-REGAL BAND. 30
3/, 1/6, 1/, and 6d. Million Prices, 6d, 1/, 1/6, and 3/.
Seats may be secured at Nicholson's.

QUEEN'S HALL.
Under the Sole Management of Mr. Frank Sceats.
Brief Metropolitan Season.
DIRECT FROM LONDON.
Starting
BOXING NIGHT, SATURDAY,
BOXING NIGHT, DEC. 26th.
An innovation in Life Motion Picture Enterprise,
OUR EMPIRE,
OUR EMPIRE,
Presented by Mr. Frank Sceats, Lecturer and Elocutionist, under the Patronage of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Harry H. Rawson, G.C.B., and the British Empire League in Australia.
OUR EMPIRE. DEPICTING IN THE MOST VIVID
OUR EMPIRE. AND REALISTIC MANNER THE
OUR EMPIRE. LIFE, INDUSTRIES, CHARACTER,
OUR EMPIRE. SCENERY, AND MIGHT OF THE
OUR EMPIRE. BRITISH EMPIRE.
Plan at Elvy's. Prices, 2s, 1s, and Sixpence. Booking Fee, 6d Extra.
JAMES MORGAN, Business Manager.

ASSOCIATED RACING CLUBS.
(Kensington, Ascot, and Rosebery.)
NOTICE TO TRAINERS AND JOCKEYS.
Applications for Registration with the Associated Racing Clubs for the year ending 31st December, 1909, accompanied with the necessary fee, must be made in writing, on forms to be obtained from the Secretary, on or before TUESDAY NEXT, the 29th December, instant, at 4 o'clock p.m. N.B.—Applications made after the above date will not receive consideration until the next monthly meeting.
J. UNDERHILL, Secretary.
11 Elizabeth-street, near Hunter-street, 'Phone, 2082.

ASSOCIATED RACING CLUBS.
(Kensington, Ascot, and Rosebery.)
NOTICE TO BOOKMAKERS.
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION with the Associated Racing Clubs for the quarter ending 31st March, 1909, accompanied with the necessary fee, must be made in writing, on forms to be obtained from the Secretary, on or before TUESDAY NEXT, the 29th December, instant, at 4 o'clock p.m.
J. UNDERHILL, Secretary.
11 Elizabeth-street, near Hunter-street, 'Phone, 2082.

YOU can't get Boots at Joe Gardiner's To-morrow or Saturday. His two stores Closed both days.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

TO Theatricals.—One pair Stage Tights, 20s, or offer, cost 30s London. A.J.C., 241 Edgecl'ff-rd, W'hra.

WANTED to Buy or Exchange, Ventriloquial Figures. Apply Vent, Herald.

MR. G. DE CAIROS-REGO announces that he is remaining in Sydney during the vacation, and is giving Piano Lessons (including the new technique) to Teachers and others visiting Sydney, at his Studio,
16 PALING'S BUILDINGS.

CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—Steamers half-hourly, No. 6 Jetty, Circ. Quay. Return Fare, 6d.

YOU can't get Boots at Joe Gardiner's To-morrow or Saturday. His two stores Closed both days.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

NESTLE'S MILK FOOD—Delicious wholesome, nourishing. Insist on having NESTLE'S FOOD.

PALACE THEATRE.
Sole Lessee .... ALLAN HAMILTON.
LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON!!
LAST NIGHT OF "STRUCK OIL."
"GOOD-BYE" TO MAGGIE MOORE.
"GOOD-BYE" TO H. R. ROBERTS.
"GOOD-BYE" TO "STRUCK OIL."
"GOOD-BYE" TO "LIZZIE STOFEL."
"GOOD-BYE" to "JOHN STOFEL."
POSITIVELY LAST NIGHT.
POSITIVELY LAST NIGHT.
POSITIVELY LAST NIGHT.
of
MAGGIE MOORE
MAGGIE MOORE
and
H. R. ROBERTS.
H. R. ROBERTS.
IN MAGGIE MOORE'S FAMOUS DRAMA,
"STRUCK OIL."
"STRUCK OIL."
BOX PLAN AT ELVY'S.
PRICES: D.C. and O.S., 3s (Booking Fee 1s extra); Stalls, 2s; Gallery, 1s. Early Doors, 7-7.30, Sixpence Extra. Day Sale, White Rose.
GEORGE BULLER, Business Manager.

PALACE.
DIRECTION OF EDWIN GEACH.
Manager ....Mr. GEORGE MARLOW.
"A Treat for the Little Ones."
Starting BOXING DAY, AT 2. BOXING DAY, AT 2. Starting
3/, 2/, 1/. 1/, 2/, 3/.
CHILDREN HALF-PRICE TO ALL PARTS.
Children Booking Fee to D.C. and R.S., 2/.
The Up-to-Date
PANTOMIME OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
Which will be presented daily at Matinees Only.
PROLOGUE .... The Abode of Davy Jones at the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea.
ACT I.
Scene 1 .... The Port of Hull.
THE GRAND "AL FRESCO BALLET."
Scene 2 .... Between Decks of the "Saucy Sal."
Scene 3 .... On Deck of the "Saucy Sal."
Introducing Marvellous Mechanical Effects.
The Sinking of the "Saucy Sal" (in full view of the audience).
Crusoe on the Raft.
ACT II.
Scene 1 .... The Abode of Fairy Pearl Queen.
THE DAINTY PEARL BALLET.
Scene 2 .... On the Seashore.
Crusoe Finds a Footstep and Friday.
Scene 3 .... Crusoe's Dwelling.
Friday Makes a Pie and Receives Visitors.
All the Party Arrive—As do the Savages.
Crusoe to the Rescue.
Scene 4 .... By the Seaside; a View of the Day.
Friday to the Rescue. Ha! Ha!
Scene 5 .... King Jumbo's Magnificent Home.
Captain Thomas J. De Smythe and his British Tars Rescue Everybody.
ACT III.
Scene 1 ...... Robinson Crusoe's Magnificent Palace.
Everybody Married, Everybody Happy.
THE GRAND HARLEQUINADE.
Clown .. Albert Smith Harlequina .. Ettie Hope
Policeman, George Smith Columbine .. Doris Bible
Pantaloon, Willie Keegan
Introducing the Great
BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT.

PALACE.
STARTING BOXING NIGHT, BOXING NIGHT, STARTING
The
DRAMATIC SENSATION OF THE HOUR,
EDWIN GEACH'S
Premier Dramatic Company,
in
THE WOMAN PAYS.
THE WOMAN PAYS.
SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND INCIDENTS.
ACT I.—Scene 1, Sedgecliffe Bay and Langford Manor. "She shall never repent her choice." Scene 2, Langford Lane—A Queer Courtship. Scene 3, Langford Spinny by the Waterfall. THE WOMAN BARGAINS.
ACT II.—Scene 1, The Old Dolphin, Sedgecliffe Bay. "Choice Game." Scene 2, Windcombe Asylum—A Vile Plot. Scene 3, Deck of S.S. Neptune—The Storm—The Wreck. Scene 4, The Open Ocean—The Castaways. THE WOMAN BUYS.
ACT III.—Scene 1, Langford Manor. "My Lass, My Nell." Scene 2, The Ante-room at Manor—Facing the Lion in his Den. Scene 3, Accident Ward in Cottage Hospital. "There'll be no Wedding to-day." Scene 4, Sedgecliffe Church—That Woman's Husband. THE WOMAN RECEIVES.
ACT IV.—Scene 1, the Tap Room of the Dolphin Inn. A Bad Bargain. Scene 2, Drawing-room, Langford Manor—"It was you, then, that ruined my Lass." THE WOMAN PAYS.
The Rose of England and America To-day.
YOU'LL REPENT IF YOU MARRY,
and
YOU'LL REPENT IF YOU DON'T.
Box Plan at Nicholson's now open daily.
Prices: 3/, 2/, 1/. Booking Fee, 1/ extra.

PALACE THEATRE.
MAGGIE MOORE AND H. R. ROBERTS
in
STRUCK OIL.
The Two Great Big Song Hits, artistically rendered by MAGGIE MOORE,
"DIXIE AND THE GIRL I LOVE,"
"DIXIE AND THE GIRL I LOVE,"
and
"I'LL BE WAITING, DEARIE, WHEN YOU COME BACK HOME."
"I'LL BE WAITING, DEARIE, WHEN YOU COME BACK HOME."
Complete Words and Music of these two Beautiful March Ballads, with artistic photo. of Australia's Greatest Favourite, Maggie Moore, may be had at all Music Stores, or at Theatre.
PRICE SIXPENCE.
Published by
ALBERT and SON, 137 and 139 King-street, Sydney, "Where the Music Hits come from."

CHARLES H. WHITE, Paling and Co.—Lessons, Mandoline and Banjo, fees £1 1s to £2 2s.

CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—Trams from Ashfield and Burwood Stations at short intervals.

JOE GARDINER'S two Boot Stores are open till 10 o'clock To-night. Closed all day To-morr. and Sat.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

CHRISTMAS EVE,

THURSDAY, 24th DECEMBER, 1908.
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND ILLUMINATIONS, MOSMAN BAY.
A SIGHT TO BE SEEN. STEAMERS FROM No. 4 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY EVERY TWENTY MINUTES. RETURN FARES: ADULTS, 4d; CHILDREN, 2d.

CHRISTMAS DAY,

FRIDAY, 25th DECEMBER, 1908.
ATHOL, CLIFTON, BALMORAL, AND THE SPIT FERRY,
No. 1 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY.
STEAMERS: 6.55x, 8x, 9x, 9.25B, 10.5, 11, 11.30, 12, 1, 2, 2.25, 3, 3.25, 4.30, 5, 5.30, 6.30, 7, 8, 9. x Bathers' Boat. FARE, including admission to Baths, 7d ADULTS, CHILDREN 4d. Athol and Clifton Only. B Clifton and Balmoral only. RETURN FARES: ADULTS, 6d; CHILDREN, 3d.
PARRAMATTA RIVER SERVICE, No. 6 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY.
CHRISTMAS DAY.—SUNDAY TIME-TABLE: EVERY HOUR from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to Parramatta, 28 miles of River Scenery, 1s RETURN.
TO RYDE, 20 MILES OF RIVER SCENERY .... 9d RETURN.
ROUND TRIP—STEAMER AND TRAIN .... 2s RETURN.
SYDNEY FERRIES, LIMITED. W. G. TODD, Manager.

TOURIST HARBOUR TRIP.

EVERY THURSDAY AND TUESDAY. TO-DAY, S.S. KOOKOOBURRA,
From FORT MACQUARIE, 10 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
90 MILES OF HARBOUR SCENERY. FARES: ALL DAY, 2s; AFTERNOON, 1s.
Luncheon: Adults, 1s 6d; Children, 1s.
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PRICES: 5s, 6s 6d, 7s 6d, 10s 6d, 15s, 21s, 30s, 45s, 50s, 60s, AND SO ON TO THE HIGHEST GRADES.

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MILK ARROWROOTS.
THE CHILDREN'S BISCUITS.
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AMUSEMENTS.

THE LYCEUM.
A MERRY XMAS TO ALL.
CHRISTMAS ATTRACTION.
TO-MORROW (XMAS) NIGHT, DEC. 25,
A SPECIAL PROGRAMME
of Unique and Chaste Subjects, including
THE LIFE AND DEATH OF CHRIST,
with Grand Pipe Organ Accompaniment (the only copy extant), which is over 3300ft in length.
PRICES: 2/, 1/, and 6d. Plan at Paling's to-day, 2/6.

THE LYCEUM.
BOXING DAY (SAT., 26th inst.),
A SPECIAL GRAND MATINEE, 2.30.

THE LYCEUM.
BOXING NIGHT (SATURDAY, DEC. 26th inst.),
A MAGNIFICENT VARIETY OF GEMS,
unequalled this side the Globe.

TOWN HALL, BOXING NIGHT, DECEMBER 26.
Mr. Spencer has leased the above Hall, in conjunction with the Lyceum, when a
SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
will be presented at Popular Prices—1/ and 6d.
SEE SATURDAY'S ADVERTISEMENT.

THE LYCEUM—POSITIVELY, JANUARY 4,
THE CHRONOMEGAPHONE AND
HARRY LAUDER,
IN NEW SONGS.

THE LYCEUM. Sole Director, C. SPENCER.
"WE LEAD, OTHERS FOLLOW."
SPENCER'S THEATRESCOPE CO.
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TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8. MATINEES, WED., SAT., and HOLIDAYS, 2.30.
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT of our Present Programme.
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT
SEE TO-MORROW'S ADVERTISEMENT.
SATURDAY, BOXING NIGHT, AND MATINEE,
A HOLIDAY PROGRAMME OF THE GREATEST GEMS.
FULL ORCHESTRA AND EFFECTS.
ADMISSION, 1/6, 1/, and /6. Plan at Paling's, 2/6, Day Sale White Rose. Doors, 7. Overture, 8.
NEW SUBJECTS EVERY WEEK.

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VICTORIA HALL.
VICTORIA HALL. EVERY EVENING, AT 8,
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VICTORIA HALL. WEDNESDAYS and
VICTORIA HALL. SATURDAY, 2.30.
VICTORIA HALL. COMPLETE CHANGE
VICTORIA HALL. EVERY WEEK.
VICTORIA HALL.
VICTORIA HALL. Popular Prices, 1s 6d, 1s, and 6d.

WONDERLAND CITY.
Sole Proprietor ...... WILLIAM ANDERSON.
(THE CONEY ISLAND OF AUSTRALIA.)
OUT WHERE THE BREEZES BLOW.
THE PEOPLE'S POPULAR PLAYGROUND.
GRAND REOPENING,
BOXING DAY (SAT. NEXT, DEC. 26).
POPULAR PRICES OF ADMISSION:—
ADULTS, 1/. CHILDREN, 6d.
INCLUDING ALL THE SIDE SHOWS.
FIFTY GREAT ALL
FIFTY AND FOR
FIFTY NOVEL ONE
FIFTY ATTRACTIONS SHILLING.
THE BEST SHILLING'S WORTH IN SYDNEY.

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AH! THURSDAY! TO-DAY MALING'S PEERLESS ORCHESTRA plays "THE WHISTLER and HIS DOG" and "TEDDY BEARS," with Full Effects, at Tourist Harbour Trip. Professional Siffleuse eng.

CHARLES H. WHITE, PALING AND CO.

PRINCE of Wales Hotel and Pleasure Grounds, Sandringham. Picnic Parties catered for. T., 4, Kog.

CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—Steamers half-hourly, No. 6 Jetty, Circ. Q. Return Fare, 6d.

JOE GARDINER'S two Boot Stores are open till 10 o'clock To-night. Closed all day To-morr. and Sat.

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NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE.
Sole Proprietor: Mr. JAMES BRENNAN.
EVERY EVENING, AT 7.45.
MATINEES EVERY SATURDAY AND WEDNESDAY.
AN ESTABLISHED POPULARITY.
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ADVANCE AUSTRALIA. ADVANCE VAUDEVILLE. POPULARITY IS THE RESULT OF PERFECTION. OH, HOW PLEASANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL.
AUSTRALIAN TALENT IS JUST AS GOOD AS The BEST, and BETTER THAN THE REST. PROOF—THE BEST BUSINESS IN THE CITY.
MONSTER BILL THIS WEEK.
The WHEELERS, TWO WESTONS, JACK KEARNS, VERA KEARNS, IDA ROSLYN, IDA BOWERS, WILL DYSON,
TWO KELVOS, WALTER WHYTE, DENIS CARNEY, BOB HALL, CARLTON and SUTTON, JOE LASHWOOD, National Duo, Maggie Fraser, Master Percy, Nellie Maher, Wally Edwards, Lily Grimshaw, ANTONIO'S DOGS and MONKEYS.
EXTRA FEATURE—NEW MOVING PICTURES BY THE MIORAMA.
PRICES, 2/, 1/6, 1/, and 6d. Box Office at Theatre, 10 to 5. No Extra Charge for Booking.
SYD. BRENNAN, Treasurer. J. C. BAIN, General Manager.

NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE.
IMPORTANT.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26.
14 NEW ARTISTS
14 NEW ARTISTS ALL SURE SUCCESSES.
14 NEW ARTISTS WE LOOK BEFORE WE LEAP.
14 NEW ARTISTS
MAGNIFICENT NEW FIRST PART.
A SCENE OF BEAUTEOUS SPLENDOUR. JENOLAN CAVES. JENOLAN CAVES. JENOLAN CAVES.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT
CHRISTMAS NIGHT
CHRISTMAS NIGHT SPECIAL PROGRAMME.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT

GREAT XMAS CONCERT.
TOWN HALL,
XMAS NIGHT
(TO-MORROW NIGHT).
MADAME
ADA CROSSLEY.
By Special Arrangement with Mr. J. C. Williamson.
Mr. John Harrison.
Mr. Percy Grainger.
M. Leon Sametini.
Mr. Jay Ryan.
Mr. Harold Whittle.
Mr. J. Edward Sykes.
AN INCOMPARABLE PROGRAMME.
Prices:
5/ Reserved.
2/6 Unreserved.
Tickets at Paling's and Beal's (To-morrow Morning at Town Hall).

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LAWRANCE PHILLIP TESTIMONIAL.—Subscribers are invited to attend at Paling's Concert Room at 3 p.m. TO-DAY for presentation of Testimonial.

THE DUDLEY WALTZ, by Ruby Beckwith-Becket, played by Band of H.M.S. Powerful. Paling and Co.

PRINCE of Wales Hotel and Pleasure Grounds, Sandringham.—Picnics, Banquets, Wedding Breakfasts, Private Dinners, Oyster Suppers, Gipsy Teas, Catered for. Hall, seat 300, on Hire. Tel., 4 Kogarah.

MANLY.—HOTEL STEYNE. An Excellent Lunch and Dinner. Daily and Sundays.

MINIATURES, 12 for 1s; CABINETS, 3s 6d; POSTCARDS, 4s dozen. 'Phone, 105 City. WILLIAMS, Photographer, The Strand, George-street end. Take lift.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special Return Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT-STREET.

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THE BALMAIN NEW FERRY CO., LTD.,

MIDDLE HARBOUR SERVICE.
BOXING DAY, DANCING 9.30 A.M. TO 9.30 P.M.
CLONTARF, PEARL BAY, BANTRY BAY, AND KILLARNEY.
Steamers from Fort Macquarie Half-hourly from 9 a.m.
Steamers from, the Spit Half-hourly from 10.
XMAS DAY, TO CLONTARF ONLY, 3 P.M.
CONCERT STEAMERS AT 3 AND 8 P.M.

THE AVENUE, LANE COVE RIVER.

BOXING DAY, DANCING IN THE PAVILION.
FIRST-CLASS BAND. EFFICIENT M.C. ADMISSION, 1/.
Beautifully Situated Grounds. Amusements for All. Refreshments at City Rates. Hot Water Free. Shooting Gallery, Swings. Picnickers Paradise. Cold Luncheon, 1/6. Swimming Bath for Children.
THE LANE COVE FERRY RUNS HALF-HOURLY SERVICE ALL DAY TO THESE GROUNDS, FROM NO. 7 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY. 6d RETURN.
XMAS DAY CONCERT STEAMERS AT 3 and 8 p.m.

EXCURSIONS TO HAWKESBURY RIVER.
BOXING DAY, SATURDAY NEXT.

S.S. HUNTER, 1840 tons
S.S. NEWCASTLE, 1251 tons } FOR COWAN BAY,
WILL LEAVE THE COMPANY'S WHARF AT 10 A.M. FOR COWAN BAY, LANDING EXCURSIONISTS AND ARRIVING IN SYDNEY ON RETURN ABOUT 6 P.M.
REFRESHMENTS AT MODERATE RATES.
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Wharf—Tram stop, foot of King-street. F. J. THOMAS, Manager.

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Motor Accessories, Supplies, Repairs, and Storage.
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NEW BELSIZE, RENAULT, SIZIARE-NAUDIN, REO. CARS IN STOCK.
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Sold on account of owner buying larger car same make.
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BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

JOE GARDINER'S two Boot Stores are open till 10 o'clock To-night. Closed all day To-morr. and Sat.

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NEW BICYCLES, from £8 10s; Secondhand, from £4. A. Toose, 23 Imperial Arcade.

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NEW Bicycles, £7 10s, complete, exceptional value. Sale now on. S. C. Co., 19 Market and Kent st.

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SMALL CAR, 7-h.p., 3 speeds and reverse, good cond., lamps, tools, etc., £95. 302 P'matta-rd, Petersham.

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GENT.'S Bicycle, good order, cheap, £4 or offer, must sell. 124 Pyrmont Bridge-rd, Camperdown.

WANTED, a cheap BICYCLE, suit boy 11 years. Orlando, Bay-st, Double Bay.

WANTED, a MOTOR ENGINE, about 6 h.p. State price to Motor, Herald, King-st.

TEN O'Clock To-night—that's when Joe Gardiner's Boot Stores close, Oxford-st and George-st.

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It maintains all the good qualities of the OLD REMINGTON.

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Have you seen the "FIVE-KEY COLUMN SELECTOR?"

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393 PITT-STREET, NEAR ANTHONY HORDERN'S.
A Beautiful Set of Teeth ... £2 2 0
Or the Complete Upper and Lower Set ... 3 3 0
These Teeth are guaranteed to last 10 years, and to give entire satisfaction. The Teeth and materials used are of the highest quality, combined with high-class workmanship. We are giving this splendid offer as an introduction to our New and Elaborate Surgeries. It will pay you to call and see us.
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AMERICAN DENTISTRY.—H. E. R. PASCOE, A Great Exponent of American Dentistry.
TEETH LIKE PEARLS. SETS FROM £2 2s.
Absolutely Painless Extractions. Fee, 2s 6d; from 9 to 10 a.m., 1s; also Saturdays, 1 to 6 p.m., 1s.
Latest Gold Work. Lowest prices in city.
Hoffnung's-chambers, 163 Pitt-st, next G.P.O. T., 4786.
Branch, 117 King-street, 2 doors from Pitt-street.

BOXING DAY,
Saturday, December 26th.
FOR CONVENIENCE OF PATIENTS,
OUR OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FOR
CONSULTATIONS DURING THE MORNING
from 9 a.m.

A WELL-FITTING Set of TEETH makes life comfortable and pleasant, your digestion easy, and your breath sweet. For all kinds of Dental Work consult
SPENCER NOLAN,
THE PAINLESS DENTIST,
43 OXFORD-STREET
(next Joe Gardiner's).
Beautiful sets of Teeth from ... £1 1 0
Gold Stoppings from ... 0 10 6
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A LOVELY SET OF TEETH FROM £1 1s, absolute fit, small teeth, and nicely finished. Repairs Cheapest in Sydney. Teeth on plate, 2s 6d, 3s 6d each.
All work guaranteed superior in quality and workmanship. Oldest estab. business in George-street West.
Finest Gold Fillings, 7s 6d, 10s 6d. Beautiful Gold Crowns £1 1s; Gold Caps 12s 6d; a Single Tooth, with plate comp., 3s 6d.
ABSOLUTELY PAINLESS EXTRACTIONS.
A Beautiful Coraline Gum Set of Teeth, upper and lower, for £3 3s, guaranteed. Our Gold Caps, 2s 6d, are really very beautiful, either on natural or artificial teeth. Usual Price, £1 1s, £2 2s, and £3 3s.
NOTE.—A Full Upper and Lower Set very nice Teeth, from £2 2s. WALTER SCOTT, R.D.S.,
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ADVICE FREE.
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The Burbank Dental Surgeries, Eden-buildings, George-street, opp. Rawson-place.
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A. MASSAGE, Anatomy, Physiology Classes, certificate. Mr. A. B. Worth, 102 2nd flr., Strand Arc.

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A YOUNG GENTLEMAN, smart and energetic, seeks employment during holidays as Salesman or in office, experience. Alameda, G.P.O., Sydney.

A WELL-KNOWN Sydney Firm require a REPRESENTATIVE in every town in N.S.W., to book orders and collect. Liberal commission allowed. Good money can be made by men with time and energy. Exclusive territory, and every assistance given to help procure business. Satisfactory refs. req. Addr., Ability, Herald.

A TAILORING NOTICE.
A HIGH-CLASS TAILORING on NEW EASY TERMS. Deposit and terms arranged to your approval. High-class Tailoring, and only First-class Cutters employed. Fit and style guaranteed. A large variety of the latest and fashionable Suitings to select from. All work guaranteed hand-finished.
Call and inspect, or Travellers will call with samples on application.
H. J. COHEN,
108 Market-st, betw. Pitt and C'reagh sts, T., City 677.
Open All Day Saturday.

BEEHIVE KNITTING MACHINE COMPANY, Bourke-street, Melbourne, want people to make HOSIERY for them, whole or spare time, in their own homes. Make a pound a week. Previous experience not necessary. Constant employment all the year round. WRITE AT ONCE.

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DRESSMAKER, Stylish, London, Parisian, 4s day. Noel, 73 George-st W.

ENGINE-DRIVER, first certificate, waiting Employment, portable job, ctry. pref. D.F.C., G.P.O.

ENGINEDRIVER seeks Employ., years' exp., second-class certif., good ref. F.H., Narara P.O.

ELECTRICIANS.—Cheapest house in city for repairs, electric motors, lights, switches, bells, etc. Efficient Electrician always in attendance. Send postcard. Prompt att. W. STONES, Elect., 77 Sussex-st, Syd.

FIRST-CLASS BOOT SALESMAN or MANAGER DISENGAGED, early in January, town or country. Thorough knowledge of Boots. 743, Herald Office.

LADY Partner for mountain Boarding-house, £25, at once. Alpine House, 204 Victoria-st North.

LOCUM TENENS (only), as Manager, Gent.'s Clothing, Hats, Mercery, Tailoring (practical cutter). Advertiser open as above for few weeks' or month's Engagement. Address 212 Post-office, Mosman.

MEDICAL.—Locums, Assists., supplied; Practices transferred. Backhouse and Goyder, 90 Pitt-st.

MEDICAL Practices Transferred and Locum Tenens provided. Bruck, Medical Expert, 15 C'reagh-st.

MEDICAL.—For Purchase and Transfer of Practices, all States; Locums, Ships, Assistants. Ramsay.

MASSAGE, Medically Recommended, Paralysis, Locomotor Ataxia, Rheumatism, Face, Taught; vacancy lady pupil. Mr. A. B. WORTH, Masseur, 102, 103 2nd floor, Strand Arcade. Tel., 2867.

MASSAGE! MADAME PATTIE.
PLASTIC and ELECTRICAL
Face and Body MASSEUSE.
CLOSED Dec. 25 and 26. OPEN 28th Dec.
CLOSED January 1 and 2, 1909.

PARTNER wtd. in lge. city Engineers' Supplies Bus., bal. sheets to date, £1500 req. Henry, 134 Pitt-st.

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PARTNER wanted in electric light company, in the country, £5000 wanted. Ivan Henry, 134 Pitt-st.

PARTNER wanted in sound city Provision Merchant's, evy. investig., £500 ½ share. I. Henry, 134 Pitt-st.

PARTNER wanted in Stock and Stn. Bus., t'over £25,000 p.a., £450 for ½ share. Henry, 134 Pitt-st.

PARTNER wanted to join exp. Shoe Manuf. in mak. children's soft and hard. Robert, Herald.

PARTNER, Summer Amusement, good, new, going concern, £15 capital, sure success. 744, Herald.

PIANO, THEORY.—Gent. visits, 2 lessons weekly, 1s 6d, thorough method. Piano, Herald.

TRAVELLER, with large connection, now Disengaged. Address Vincet, Herald Office.

WANTED, Gent., society entertainer or conjurer, amateur, mus., gd. salary. Faith, P.O., Wm.-st.

WELL-EDUCATED Gentleman, with excellent testimonials, wants Private Secretaryship or similar occupation; would accept post as Teacher private school; Pay £3 for permanency. 739, Herald.

WANTED, by thoroughly up-to-date Engineer, Electrical and all Machinery, at present managing large mills in India, POSITION as Manager or Overseer of any Manufacturing, Machinery, or Engineering concern throughout Australia. Good business man. 20 years' experience as manager of large manufacturing businesses.
Credentials from 11 A1.
Apply Box 395, G.P.O., Melbourne.

YOUNG fellow would like to meet with Companion to go to the opal fields. Sam, Herald Office.

POSITIONS VACANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited and will be received up to 4 p.m. on 2nd January, 1909, from Gentlemen holding Certificates under the Local Government Act, for the Dual Position of CLERK and INSPECTOR of NUISANCES to the Municipality of Homebush.
Salary at the rate of £130 per annum.
H. N. KITE, Mayor.
23rd December, 1908.

AUDITOR.
SEPARATE APPLICATIONS will be received up to the 31st DECEMBER from Certificated Auditors, under Local Government Act, for the Position of AUDITOR for half-year ending December 31st, 1908, for WEDDON SHIRE and GRENFELL MUNICIPALITY.
All particulars from
GEORGE COUSINS,
Shire and Council Clerk.

BOOT TRADE.—Clicker, kip and tweed, for ctry. Call Climpson's Store, M'Evoy-st, Wat'loo, Sat. morn.

BOOT TRADE.—Youth, scouring; Golosh Mach.; and Fitting Improver. Vickery, 165 Riley-st, W'loo.

BRICKLAYER. Apply Gillies' job, Denison-st, Waverley.

BOYS.—Wanted, Four BOYS to deliver circulars. Apply THE CROWN STUDIOS, 448 George-street, Sydney.

POSITIONS VACANT.

New South Wales Government Railways,
Office of the Chief Commissioner,
Sydney, 23rd December, 1908.
APPLICATIONS for Positions as APPRENTICE CLERKS in the Metropolitan District will be received at this office until WEDNESDAY, 30th instant, from lads who have attained the age of 15 and are under 18 years of age. Commencing salary, £30 per annum.
Applications, stating date of birth, and accompanied by copies of testimonials (originals must not be sent), are to be addressed:—"The Secretary to the Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways, Sydney," and the envelopes endorsed:—"Application for Position of Apprentice Clerk, Metropolitan District.
By order.
H. McLACHLAN, Secretary.

BACCHUS MARSH CONCENTRATED MILK COMPANY, LTD.
APPLICATIONS are invited for position of FACTORY MANAGER at one of the above Company's Factories.
Applications will only be received from men fully qualified to take complete charge of a Factory, and who thoroughly understand the manufacture of Sweetened Condensed Milk, and have the necessary knowledge of machinery, etc.
Applications in writing, with full particulars of experience and copies of credentials, to be addressed to the Company's Sydney Office, 277 Clarence-street, when a personal interview will be arranged.
A liberal salary is offered, and all applications will be treated as confidential.

CARPENTER wanted at once. General Store, opposite Public School, Woollahra.

CHEMISTS.—ASSISTANTS wanted. Washington H. Soul and Co., 160 Pitt-st.

COMPETENT Customs and Shipping Clerk required by wholesale city firm. Refs. to Box 558, G.P.O.

DRAPERY.—Wanted, experienced Hand to-day, Manchester Dept. J. Gosby, P'matta-rd, Leichhardt.

DRESSMAKING WORKROOMS.
Vacancies for FIRST-CLASS BODICE HANDS, also IMPROVERS to the BODICES.
GOOD SALARY to competent workers.
Apply Dressmaking Dept.,
W. T. WATERS and CO., Ltd.,
King and George streets, Sydney.

GIRLS wanted, for folding, stitching, and numbering. Ross Bros., Ltd., Printers, 547 Kent-st.

GOV., £40, Inverell; £40, Moree; £35, Trangie; £35, N. Coast; Gov. as Partner in sch. 110 Bathurst-st.

HAIRDRESSERS.—Wtd., tidy Youth, able to lather and brush, excel. chance learn trade. 72 Oxford-st.

HAIRDRESSERS.—Smart Lad, to lather, for to-day, permt. if so desired, good wages. 5 Pitt-st, C.Q.

HAIRDRESSERS.—Wanted, first-class Improver, good wages. Apply 723 George-st, Haymarket.

JUNIOR CLERK wanted by Wine and Spirit Merchant, one with some knowledge of Customs routine preferred. Salary 15s. Apply in own handwriting, stating experience (if any) and age. Box 144, G.P.O.

JUNIOR WANTED,
BY AN IMPORTANT MERCANTILE OFFICE.
Progressive Position. Salary 10s to commence.
Apply with copies of testimonials to
Wool, Box 630, G.P.O.

LIFT BOY wanted. Apply Thursday, 9.15 a.m., the Victoria Insurance Co., Ltd., 83 Pitt-st, Sydney.

LEGAL.—Wanted, thoroughly competent and experienced Conveyancing and Costs Clerk. Good salary and prospects for suitable man. Apply with testimonials and full particulars of experience, stating salary required, to GEORGE A. HAYES,
Solicitor, Stock Exchange-building.

MACHINE BOY wanted (Platen). Winsor and Co., Imperial Arcade.

MASTER wanted, £80 per annum, with board and residence, or £100 without. M. N. O., Herald.

MILLINERY.—Smart Wire Shape Makers wanted at once, good wages. 91 Oxford-st, city.

MEASURE CUTTER WANTED.
Write J. GOODFELLOW, c.o. Herald Office, stating age, salary required, and previous practical experience, if any.

MUNICIPALITY OF MUSWELLBROOK.
APPLICATIONS, endorsed, and addressed to the Mayor will be received by the Council of the Municipality of Muswellbrook for the position of TOWN CLERK and SECRETARY FOR GASWORKS, up to 6th January next.
Applicants to be qualified in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1906, and regulations thereunder. Salary, £150 per year.
PIERCE HEALY,
Town Clerk.
Council-chambers, Muswellbrook,
22nd December, 1908.

MUNICIPALITY OF REDFERN.
FOREMAN OF WORKS.
Applications will be received up to THURSDAY, 7th JANUARY, 1909, at 3 o'clock p.m., for the position of FOREMAN OF WORKS for this Municipality.
THE SALARY offered is £286 per annum.
Specifications of duties can be seen and further particulars obtained upon application to the undersigned.
R. W. GRIERSON,
Town Clerk.
Council-chambers, Redfern,
24/12/'08.

MALCOLM DISTRICT HOSPITAL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
APPLICATIONS are invited from duly qualified practitioners for the position of RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER to above Hospital, at a salary of £300 per annum and an allowance of £60 per annum for visiting outside centres (conveyance provided), also quarters free of rates, taxes, and rent. Private practice allowed. The successful applicant to take over duties on the 27th January, 1909, and if he retains the position for 6 months steamer fare to Fremantle and rail fare to Malcolm will be refunded. Population of district, 1700. Agreement to be entered into, terminable 3 months' notice either side.
Applications, enclosing copies of testimonials, close 11th January, 1909.
J. H. STURCKE,
Chairman.
Malcolm, 11th December, 1908.

PAPERHANGER, by the roll. G. Thatcher, 32 Codrington-st, Darlington.

PHOTOGRAPHIC Retoucher wanted, permanent. Esma, 28 Oxford-st, Sydney.

PHOTOGRAPHY.—Young Lady, for reception-room, must be first-class retoucher, good wages to competent hand. Alawa Studios, corner Oxford and Crown streets.

PLATELAYER.—Wanted, a competent MAN, for Fiji. Apply with references to
SHOP MANAGER,
Pyrmont Sugar Works.

QUEENSLAND.
Home Secretary's Office,
Brisbane, 12th December, 1908.
APPLICATIONS, addressed to the Under-Secretary, Home Department, BRISBANE, will be received until the 15th JANUARY, 1909, from duly qualified Medical Men, for the Position of INSPECTOR of ASYLUMS FOR THE INSANE and MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, Goodna, Queensland. Salary, £800 per annum and quarters, fuel, and light.
W. H. RYDER,
Under-Secretary.

SIGNWRITER wanted. Apply Sidney Syne, Advertising Contractor, 41 Hunter-st, Sydney.

SMART BOY required, for large warehouse, must be good penman. Blake, Herald.

SALESMEN.—We require smart MEN for Hats and Clothing (casual), 10s day and premiums. Mr. CURRY, W. LOWE and CO., George-street.

SHIRE OF COREEN.
Applications will be received until 9th January, 1909, from Local Government Auditors, to Audit the Accounts of the Coreen Shire and Corowa Municipal Councils for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1908. The offices of both Councils are situated in Corowa.
ERNEST BRAY,
Shire Clerk.

SPRINGSURE HOSPITAL.
APPLICATIONS for a Certificated Trained NURSE for above Institution are invited, and will be received by the undersigned till 10 a.m. SATURDAY, January, 1909.
Salary £50 per annum and keep.
Testimonials required, and applicants to state certificates held.
Envelopes containing application to be endorsed "Application for Nurse."
For further particulars apply
T. J. E. LAVER,
Secretary.

TAILOR, good, wanted, able to cut well, country, constant. State wages required. Snip, Herald.

TRAVELLER reqd., represent Tea Firm, fam. trade, ctry., smart yg. Man, refs. Picton, Herald.

TYPIST wanted, temporary, 29th to 5th January, holidays given. Apply 171 Clarence-st, city.

TYPEWRITER.—Junior Shorthand Writer and Typewriter (male) wanted from the New Year. Apply for particulars to the Secretary, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

TO TRAVELLERS.—Wanted, an experienced TRAVELLER, to solicit orders for Tailoring, for the South Coast, Cooma, and Bombala lines; good salary and expenses to a competent man. Open till the 1st January next. Apply by letter or personal application, to
R. C. HAGON,
120 King-street.

WANTED, TYPIST, Male, for Merchant's Office. State salary required, with copy refs., 715, Herald.

WANTED, Bricklayer. Apply J. Walker, 311 Glenmore-rd, Paddington.

WANTED, General Blacksmith, must be good shoer. State wages, apply once, S. Martin, Adaminaby.

WANTED, CHAUFFEUR, for mountains, exp. 317 Kent-st.

WANTED, compt. Bookkeeper, for Western Station, £75. Apply with refs., Bera, Box 484, G.P.O.

POSITIONS VACANT.

WANTED, ASSISTANT, for Ham and Beef Shop. Apply early, 90 Corso, Manly.

WANTED, one Holder-up. J. Scaddon, Federal Timber Yards, Rozelle.

WANTED, Job Carpenter, at once, half day. Myee, 306 Cleveland-st, city side.

WANTED, first-class General SMITH, for country. T. Avery, 303 Cleveland-st, Redfern, 9 a.m.

WANTED, a smart BOY, one leaving school preferred, good opportunity. E. T. Walsh, 350 George-st.

WANTED, 'Varsity Capmakers, also Apprentices, to learn capmaking. C. Anderson, Albion-st, S.H.

WANTED, Apprentice for Piano and Organ Tuning and Repairing. Riva, 457 Oxford-st, Paddington.

WTD., good Carpenter, used to adze-work. Apply new building, opp. Park, Elizabeth-st, Redfern.

WANTED, smart Boy for electrical engineering, prev. exper. pref. Apply 9 a.m. to-day, 356 Pitt-st.

WANTED, Man to lime wash kitchen on Saturday. Apply this morning, Mayman's Hotel, King-st.

WANTED, smart BOY, for Merchant's Office, none but those having passed Junior Exam. need apply. State wages, etc., to
SMART, Herald Office.

WANTED, a SHORTHAND WRITER and TYPIST, with experience in Solicitor's office; salary £2 10s per week, country. Apply by letter only with copies references, Legal, Herald Office.

WANTED, GROCER, for north-western store, salary 50s. Written applications to
PRIESTLEY, LARCOMBE, and MORRIS,
107 Pitt-street, Sydney.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
IN BANKRUPTCY.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.
ACCOUNTS with plans of distribution in the undermentioned estates, showing dividends as specified, are now filed in the Office of the Registrar in Bankruptcy, Citizens'-chambers, Moore-street, Sydney, for the inspection of persons interested; and Notice is hereby given that accounts and plans will be submitted to the Court for confirmation on THURSDAY, 7th January, 1909, at 11 a.m., if not previously objected to:—
PATRICK POWELL, of Argyle and Kent streets, Sydney, and "Lord Nelson Hotel," Miller's Point, Hotelkeeper (Nos. 8,339-59), a second account and first plan of distribution, showing payment of a dividend of two shillings and one-eighth of a penny in the £ on all proved concurrent debts.
JOHN MILNE CURRAN, of 673 Dowling-street, Sydney, Geologist (No. 16,314), a fifth account and fifth plan of distribution, showing payment of interest on interest-beark.g debts, and a balance of £237 1s 11d carried forward to the credit of the estate.
Also, accounts current only in the undermentioned estates:—
17,877. In the Matter of the Crimes Act, 1900, and of the order of 19th August, 1908, re WILLIAM STANLEY FORBES, a person convicted of felony.
17,883. PERCY MITCHELL, of Sackville, Farmer.
17,663. JAMES EDWARD MOORE, of Cobar, Engine-driver.
17,875. JAMES LINDSAY SCHMIDT, of 111 New South Head-road, Paddington.
17,864. DAVID JOHN COX, of Yarrogal, Wellington.
17,891. CHARLES EDWARD THOMAS PAGETT, of Illewong, near Cobar, Labourer; also of Lambrigg Siding, near Cobar.
WILLIAM HARRINGTON PALMER,
Official Assignee.
47 Elizabeth-street, Sydney,
22nd December, 1908.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Probate Jurisdiction.—No. 12046.—In the Will of ANGUS MACKAY, late of Pomingalarna, near Wagga Wagga, in the State of New South Wales, Grazier, deceased.—NOTICE is hereby given that the first Accounts in the above Estate have this day been filed in my office, Chancery-square, Kingstreet, Sydney, and all persons having any claim on the said Estate, or being otherwise interested therein, are hereby required to come in before me at my said office, on or before the 11th day of February, 1909, at 11.45 o'clock in the forenoon, and inspect the same, and if they shall think fit object thereto; otherwise if the said Accounts be not objected to the same will be examined by me and passed according to law. And Notice is hereby given that on the allowance of the said Accounts by the Court commission will be applied for on behalf of the executor. Dated this 21st day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and eight. T. W. GARRETT (L.S.), Registrar. HEATH and MITCHELMORE, Wagga Wagga. By GARLAND and SEABORN, Bull's-chambers, 14 Moore-street, Sydney.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Probate Jurisdiction.—No. 12,046.—In the Will of MARY ANN KING, late of Wagga Wagga, in the State of New South Wales (the wife of Thomas King, of Wagga Wagga aforesaid, Carter), deceased. NOTICE is hereby given that the first Accounts and plan of distribution in the Estate of the abovenamed deceased have this day been filed in my office, Chancery-square, King-street, Sydney, and all persons having any claim on the said Estate, or being otherwise interested therein, are hereby required to come in before me at my said office on or before the 11th day of February, 1909, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, and inspect the same, and if they shall think fit object thereto; otherwise if the said Accounts be not objected to the same will be examined by me and passed according to law. Dated this 21st day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and eight. T. W. GARRETT (L.S.), Registrar. HEATH and MITCHELMORE, Wagga Wagga. By their Agents, GARLAND and SEABORN, Bull's-chambers 14 Moore-street, Sydney.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Probate Jurisdiction.—In the Will of THOMAS QUICK, late of Woodlands, near Tamworth, in the State of New South Wales, Farmer, deceased.—NOTICE is hereby given that the first Accounts in the above Estate have this day been filed in my office, Queen's-square, King-street, Sydney, and all persons having any claim on the said Estate, or being otherwise interested therein, are hereby required to come in before me at my said office on or before the 10th day of February next, at [illegible]30 o'clock in the forenoon, and inspect the same, and if they shall think fit object thereto; otherwise if the said Accounts be not objected to the same will be examined by me and passed according to law. Dated this 18th day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and eight. T. W. GARRETT (L.S.), Registrar. WILLIAM FREDERICK TRIBE, Proctor for the Executrix and Executors, Tamworth. By CURTISS and BARRY, Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Probate Jurisdiction.—In the Estate of FREDERICK WILLIAM TURNER, late of Tarro, in the State of New South Wales, Farmer, deceased, intestate.—Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to ETHEL LILLIAN TURNER, of Tarro aforesaid, the Widow of the said deceased, and all notices may be served at the office of the undersigned; and all persons having any claims against the Estate of the said deceased are requested to send particulars thereof to the undersigned within such fourteen days. SPARKE and MILLARD, Solicitors, Newcastle. By their Agent, A. P. SPARKE, 12 Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Probate Jurisdiction.—In the Will of BERNHARDT FRIEDRICH MULLER, late of Drummoyne, in the State of New South Wales, Engineer, deceased.—Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Probate of the last Will of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to ANNIE MULLER, of Drummoyne, the Widow of the said deceased, and the sole Executrix named in the said Will; and Notice is hereby given that Creditors are required to send in particulars of their claims to the undersigned within the said fourteen days. MACKENZIE and MACKENZIE, Proctors for Executrix, City Bank-chambers, 164 Pitt-street, Sydney.

PURSUANT to an Order of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, made in the matter of the Estate of MARGARET ANN HOBSON, deceased, and in an action FOSTER v WATSON, 1907, F. No. 652, inquiries are directed in the following terms, viz.:—An inquiry whether THOMAS FOSTER, named in the Will of the said Margaret Ann Hobson, the Testatrix, is living or dead, and if dead, when he died, and who are his legal personal representatives; and if he died in the lifetime of the Testatrix, whether he left any issue living at the death of the Testatrix. 2. An inquiry whether JOHN FOSTER, named in the said Will, is living or dead, and if dead, when he died, and who are his legal personal representatives; and if he died in the lifetime of the Testatrix, whether he left any issue living at the death of the Testatrix.
NOTICE is hereby given that Thomas Foster and John Foster mentioned in the said Will, or the persons claiming to be the next-of-kin of the said Thomas Foster and John Foster, are by their Solicitors, on or before the 30th day of April, 1909, to come in and prove their claims at the Chambers of Mr. Justice EVE, at Room 680, the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said order.
MONDAY, the 10th day of May, 1909, at 12.30 of the clock in the afternoon, at the said Chambers, is appointed for hearing and adjudicating upon the said claims.
Dated this 17th day of November, 1908.
W. O. HEWLETT,
Master.
PERCY NOEL, 5 and 6 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, England, Plaintiff's Solicitor.
The above-named Thomas Foster and John Foster are believed to have left England about 35 to 40 years ago for Australia.

AT Joe Gardiner's you get high value and low prices in footwear. Does that suit your pocket?

MACHINERY.

TANGYE'S HIGH-CLASS MACHINERY.
OIL ENGINES—Simple, Economical, Reliable.
SUCTION GAS PLANTS—Cheapest power known.
STEAM ENGINES—All sizes and various types.
BOILERS—Vertical and Horizontal.
PUMPS—Steam and Belt Driven, all sizes and types.
CRAB WINCHES, JACKS, BEARS, GOVERNORS, etc.
Inspect at our Showrooms,
131 HAY-STREET, SYDNEY.
DALGETY and CO., Limited, Agents.

RAILS and FITTINGS, large quantities in stock and to arr., all sizes, T. and Bridge Sections, Trucks, Locos., and Accessories, new and good sec.-hand, for SALE. J. E. TOOLE and CO., 70 Hunter-st. T., 1228.

PIONEER AGRICULTURAL LEATHER BELTING, specially treated to stand exposure to all weathers. J. C. LUDOWICI and SON, Ltd., 117 York-street, Sydney.

ALL CLASSES of Machinery, comprising Battery, Cyanide, Compressor, Pumping, Smelting, Winding Plants, in stock. JOHN PLUMB, Equitable-building.

FOR SALE, 12-h.p. Portable, £175; 14-h.p. Semi-Portable, £140; 50-h.p. Engine, rope driven, £225; 75-h.p. Tubular Boiler, £100; 6-h.p. Engine and Boiler, £65; 4-h.p. Engine, £23. T. K. Smith, 70 Hay-st.

ROBEY Portable Steam Engines, Traction Engines, Self-propelling. Portable Engines, Threshers, Improved Otto "National" Gas Engines and Suc. Plants. ARTHUR LEPLASTRIER and CO., Circ. Quay (East).

PUMPS.—Mather and Platt High Lift Turbine Pumps, Ruston Centrifugal Pumps, Gardner Duplex Pumps, etc. GIBSON, BATTLE and CO., Ltd., 7 Bent-street, Sydney.

MINING MACHINERY.—Raff (Tailings) Wheel wanted, up to 5000 gallons water per hour, wi[illegible] shafting. Address particulars to Box 982, G.P.O.

CHEAP, two 6-h.p. Engines and Boilers, Chaffcutter, Double Bagger, Cornerusher Conf. Plant. Elliott's.

LEATHER BELTING. A. Radke and Sons, Longueville. Tel., 153 N.S.

BLOCKS, Hyper Acme, Mork's, Weston's, single, double, triple. Scrutton, Co., Ltd., 161 Clarence-st.

I HAVE in stock 20,000ft Piping, from ½in to 6in, suitable irrigation. C. Plumb, Mew-st, Ultimo.

WANTED, ENDLESS CHAIN PULLEY, lift 1 ton. Apply, stating price and length of chain, to Box 1221, G.P.O.

JOE GARDINER'S windows in Oxford-st—Nos. 43, 45, 47, 55, 60—are a marvellous exhibition of bargains.

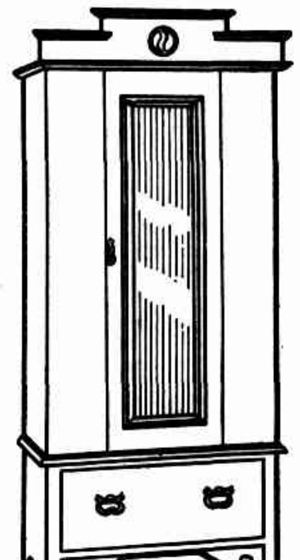
THE "ROMNEY" BEDROOM SUITE.

3ft WASH-HAND STAND, with Marble Top and Tiled Back; Towel Rail attached.

... PRICE, COMPLETE, ...

£9 : 17 : 6.

FINISHED AS ROSEWOOD, WALNUT, OR MORRIS GREEN.

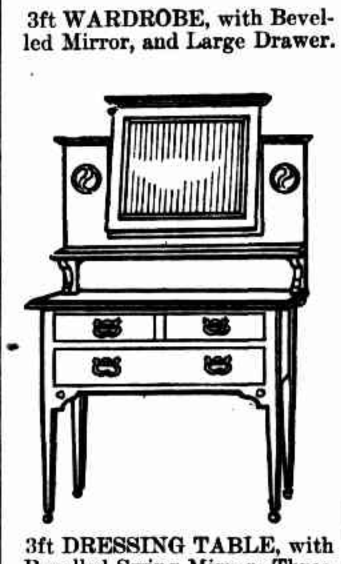


3ft WARDROBE, with Bevelled Mirror, and Large Drawer.

The "Romney" is one of our new designs for a small Bedroom or Guest Chamber. It is conscientiously put together, of sound materials, and excellent workmanship. The doors and drawers fit just as well as if the Suite cost £100 instead of only £9/17/6, and the fittings are not flimsy, but solid, and made to give hard wear.

The Suite is simple and graceful in design, and, although small, will be a pleasing and useful feature in its proper setting. We desire to draw special attention to the workmanship, which in low-priced suites is generally neglected. In this case, everything has been finished by craftsmen, and the "Romney" may be looked upon as a specimen of what can be effected in a modern, up-to-date factory by skilled workmen.

VISITORS TO TOWN are cordially invited to pay a visit to our 33 SPECIMEN FURNISHED ROOMS—in which we exhibit Furniture in its natural surroundings. Everything is marked in plain figures—and, even if you did not wish to buy just now, it would be wise to take the opportunity to visit our Showrooms whilst you are in Sydney.



3ft DRESSING TABLE, with Bevelled Swing Mirror; Three Drawers.

BEARD, WATSON, LIMITED,

361-363 George-st., Sydney.

TENDERS.

THE COMBINE IS BROKEN.

And we take the credit for having defeated it. We have also secured A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR ALL BONA-FIDE BUILDERS, and now ask you to fulfil your part of the Contract by extending us your esteemed patronage. We have also purchased the whole of the Kauri Timber Co.'s Premises and Plant, which is the most up-to-date Machinery in Australasia.

We commence operations in our New Premises on Monday, 4th January, and are prepared to supply all kinds of Timber, also CUT LOGS, WITH OUR LOG BAND SAW, and Band Re-saws, AT REASONABLE RATES. Having better facilities for handling timber than any other firm, WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL CHEAPER.

GEORGE HUDSON AND SON, LTD.,
TIMBER MERCHANTS, REGENT-STREET, REDFERN.
'PHONES, 102, 256 REDFERN.

ARTISTS and PAINTERS.—If you want best quality GOODS at Lowest Cost, buy from JAMES SANDY and CO., 326-328 George-street.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT-STREET.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
SUPPLIES FOR 1909.
The following TENDERS have been accepted.—For three months:—
MEAT (outdoor and indoor supply), Sutton Forest Meat Company.
BREAD, John Conlon.
VEGETABLES, Chew Lee and Company.
For twelve months—
FUEL, J. A. McIntyre.
PAPER, WRAPPING and BAGS, the Colonial Paper Company, Limited.
SWEEPING CHIMNEYS, L. Prevost.
MILK and ICE, Dairy Farmers' Co-operative Company.
FISH and OYSTERS, D. Comino.
REFUSE, J. D. Moss.
PRINTING GAZETTE, W. E. Smith.
INTERMENTS, W. N. Bull.
JNO. WALTER ROSEBY,
Secretary.
Offices, Thomas-street, December 23, 1908.

BRICKS for SALE, cheap and good. T. Daley, Stanley-st Brickworks, Sydenham-rd, Marrickville.

BUILDERS' and Gen. Ironmongery; Galv. Hoopiron, Birch Wire. Macintosh, 307 Pitt-st.

FLOORLAYERS.—TENDERS, New Terrace, Lawson-st, off Ebley-st, Waverley.

FOR WIRE WORK go to Eastway's Great Store, [illegible] below G.P.O.

FRESHWATER CLEARING.—J. HEARN and W. H. GOULD are hereby notified that unless the job is proceeded with, it will be relet at their risk. D. G. COMERFORD, 38 George-street West, Sydney.

KALSOMINE, 1s pkts., reduced to 5d; Handsome Iron Entrance Gates, Railings, etc. Elliott's, 493 Geo.-st.

THERE'S a bigger variety in Footwear at Joe Gardiner's than at any other boot store. Note that.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

MINTARO SLATE, unequalled for durability, for Steps, Nosings, Landings, Tanks, Urinals; Marble for Counters, Lavatories, Steps, Nosings, Wall Lining, Tiles, Ver., Hearths. Creak and Ford, 195 Geo.-st W.

SYDNEY FERRIES, LIMITED.
TENDERS FOR ANNUAL SUPPLIES, 1909.
SEPARATE TENDERS will be received up to noon on WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY, 1909, for the Supply of the undermentioned articles, viz.:—
PRINTING, STATIONERY.
SHIP CHANDLERY, IRONMONGERY.
PAINTS and OILS, TIMBER.
Forms of Tender and other particulars obtainable at the Company's Offices, Circular Quay.
W. G. TODD,
Manager.

SLATES.—Best Bangor and American. Estimates given. G. T. Cross, 2 Bridge-st. Tel., 4105.

THE BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TIMBER COMPANY, Limited,
Wholesale and Retail Timber Merchants.
YARD, foot Johnston-street, Annandale.
OFFICE: 15 Bent-street, Sydney.
COLONIAL TIMBERS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
DELIVERIES GUARANTEED.
CONTRACTORS' REQUIREMENTS A SPECIALITY.
MILLS: Lismore, Coff's Harbour, Woolgoolga, Port Macquarie.
DALGETY and COMPANY, Ltd., Agents.

TO CONTRACTORS.
TENDERS are invited until WEDNESDAY, 6th January, 1909, for SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION, PEAT'S FERRY-ROAD, HORNSBY. Plans and all particulars at our Offices,
SPAIN and COSH,
Architects.
Vickery's-chambers, 82 Pitt-street.

TENDERS.—Plasterers wanted, two jobs, Neutral Bay and Mosman. Verrills, Reed, Ltd., N. Bay.

YOU'LL have a Happy Xmas if you get your footwear at Joe Gardiner's. It will save you money.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

TENDERS.

TENDERS.—Floorlaying 2 Cottages, Haybery-st, North Sydney. W. Griffiths.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

CASE of Instruments, unused, for eye surgery, will be Exch. for gd. Microscope. C. Thackeray, Herald.

HENRY JONES Phrenologist and Adviser, still at 57 Market-st. 'Phone, 2048.

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ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT-STREET.

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AN IMPERIAL MARRIAGE.

BY A. W. MARCHMONT.

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CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

The interview with the Baron was a curious mixture of pathos and burlesque. The pain which I could see Althea was suffering cut me to the quick, and I sought to shorten the conversation as much as possible. But her father was so full of his own importance, so talkative about his wrongs, so insistent upon my complete obedience to his orders, so obviously unable to take a rational view of any part of the subject, and so incapable of understanding the risks and dangers of the position, that it was a long time before we could drive it home to him that the only hope of success lay in his leaving everything to me.

"But your very presence in Berlin is a danger," said Althea more than once when we were attempting to persuade him to leave the city.

"No one knows of it, child. And I have not done anything if they did. Beside, would you have me, the leader of the whole movement, shirk the danger now that the hour has come?"

"It may get to be known that you were at Herr Ziegler's house last night."

"I went to prevent violence, child. That is surely no crime."

"And you are placing Herr Bastable in danger by remaining here."

"Is it not his duty to run risks in the cause? Is he to be the only man to venture nothing for our country? Danger, indeed," he cried indignantly. "Have we not all suffered? What of my own sufferings?" and he was off again on his favourite topic when I interrupted him.

"Have you any commands in regard to the forthcoming attack?"

"Ah, that will be a stroke; and it is my own conception;" and as the wind will turn a straw, he went off to the fresh subject and spoke at length about it.

It appeared that a new cruiser, the Wundervoll, had just been launched, and the intention was to wreck her as she lay waiting to be taken to be fitted up. The bomb which, thank heaven, lay at the bottom of the Spree, was to do the mischief, and the exact details of the plain as to time and means were to be discussed and settled at a forthcoming meeting of some of the more reckless men of the party.

A very little ingenuity succeeded in extracting from him the place of the meeting—a house on the riverside which had been taken by them, ostensibly for some business purposes. But the time of the meeting he did not appear to know.

"I shall learn that in due course. They cannot move without me; for I trust no one but myself with the means. But it will not be yet for some days."

"Dou you mean, then, father, that someone else knows you are here?" asked Althea in a tone of alarm, with a glance in my direction.

"Could I lead them without their being able to communicate with me? You are foolish, Althea. Did they not prepare this shelter for me?"

"Oh, it is terrible," she murmured with a deep sigh.

"It will be glorious, you should say rather, child," he replied with a wild look in his eyes. "The greatest blow which we have yet been able to strike at the oppressors of our country."

"I will go and see what is doing," I put in as I rose. "I will report to you the results of my inquiries, and you will of course do nothing without first hearing them, and without my aid. You would not rob me of my share in the coming victory?"

"Bring me word instantly," he said in a tone of sharp command. "And I wish to see Sudermann and Bolinsk to consult with them. See them and bring them here to me at once."

"It would not be safe for them to be seen coming here. My house is too well known for them to take such a risk."

"See them, then, and tell them—Wait, I will write you a letter." He turned aside and wrote rapidly, and in the meantime Althea looked at me with an expression of such pain and concern that I was almost ashamed of the deception I was practising.

"Here is the note. 'The bearer, Herr Bastable, has my fullest confidence and knows my wishes. Consult with him freely.' That will satisfy them, if they should have any doubt about speaking frankly to you."

"Oh, but they will not," I answered confidently; and with that I left the room.

As I went downstairs I was about to tear up the letter, when it occurred to me as a possibility that it might be of use in any future case of emergency, so I put it carefully away.

Then I set to work to think out some means of inducing the Baron to leave Berlin, by using my supposed influence with the party. If I could tell him a plausible story to the effect that the attempt had had to be postponed for a few weeks, and that the authorities had got wind of it, he might go. And for Althea's sake as well as for our own I was intensely anxious to get him away.

As I sat planning this a letter was brought to me from Herr Borsen.

"My dear Bastable,—

"Can you come and see me? I understand that you have another visitor in your house, and it is about that I should like a few words with you. I wish to be able to contradict a strange report which has reached me concerning him; since, if uncontradicted, it might be a somewhat serious matter for you. Any time to-morrow will do, but not later.

"Yours as ever."

If I had been wishful for the Baron to go before, the letter turned the wish into a strenuous anxiety.

It looked very much like the beginning of the end.

CHAPTER XVII.

"W. MISCHEN'S" WAREHOUSE.

When I read Borsen's letter through the second time I thought I could detect a little more in it than appeared on the surface. "Any time to-morrow will do, but not later," he wrote; and he had dated his note "midday."

I judged therefore that he was really stretching a point in order to give me time to get my visitor away, and so be able to "contradict the report." There was plenty of time for him to have seen me that afternoon; the obvious course in the case of a matter so really serious. But he had given me the interval to afford me the time to free myself from suspicion.

He was a very good fellow, and had at one time been very friendly with me; but there was something besides friendship behind his present step. I had convinced him in Chalice's matter that I was likely to succeed as well with Althea; and being a negotiator with a preference for the path of least resistance, he preferred that I should have the time to pull that chestnut out of the fire for him rather than that he should have to do it himself.

There was a still further reason. The presence of Baron von Ringheim in Berlin was likely to be more than a little embarrassing to Count von Felsen's scheme for his son. They knew perfectly well that he would only venture to come to the capital for some such purpose as that which had actually brought him; and if he were to be taken at such a juncture and under such suspicious circumstances, the Kaiser's promise of a pardon was pretty sure to be withdrawn.

Borsen was thus turning the screw on me to force me to take the steps which they greatly desired and could not take for themselves.

I determined to put this to the test at once; therefore, with a little bluff, I scribbled a hasty line to the effect that I could go round at once if he wished; but that on the following day I should probably be going on a journey with a friend.

I intended him to infer that I should be taking the Baron out of the city. He read the letter in that light, and sent back word that he was going away at once, and that under the circumstances the next day but one would do well enough for the purpose.

I had a respite of twenty-four hours. I told Althea what had passed, and that I could not possibly face Borsen unless in the meanwhile we could prevail upon her father to leave the city, and I described my rough idea of getting him away by a fairy-tale about the discovery of the plot.

Partly with the object of being able to give colour to the story, and partly out of a desire to ascertain something more about the doings of the Baron's associates, I went down to the riverside to have a look at their headquarters.

I was extremely anxious about his account of the intended attempt to wreck the Wundervoll, and resolved of course to prevent it. The whole Empire was in one of those flushes of feeling about the navy which the Emperor's policy had created; and I knew that such an outrage would incense the authorities, and that the punishment meted out would be in proportion to their wrath.

Directly or indirectly some of that demand for vengeance would fall on Althea as well as on myself—if it became generally known that I had sheltered one of the chief perpetrators—and I had to find the means of secretly preventing so disastrous a result.

The riverside premises looked harmless enough. The name, "W. Mischen," had been newly painted up, and a suggestion that a corn business was being carried on there was evidenced by some sacks of grain.

(To be continued.)

Stop that coughing by using CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY. It always cures.—Advt.

Of Interest to Cricketers.—This issue of the "Sydney Mail" contains excellent portraits of prominent cricketers—M. A. Noble, Clem Hill, A. J. Hopkins, W. Bardsley, A. B. S. White, and S. H. Emery.—Advt.

THE CANCELLED LEASES.

QUESTION OF LESSEES' RIGHTS.

LAND COURT DECISIONS.

A special sitting of the Land Appeal Court was held yesterday, and three reserved decisions, relating to the rights of lessees of improvement leases granted when the late Mr. Crick was Minister for Lands, were delivered.

The first was in the matter of an appeal by R. and A. Scott against the finding of the Dubbo Land Board overruling certain objections taken in respect of their dealing with settlement lease area, No. 909, within Burroway resumed area, No. 594A, Central Division.

In giving his decision, the President (Mr. H. A. G. Curry) gave a history of the transactions relating to the cancellation of three leases held in Burroway holding, consequent on a certificate granted by Sir William Owen (then Mr. Justice Owen) under the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act of 1906. Under the provisions of that Act the lessees became the holders of preferential occupation licenses of the land, which became reserved from sale and lease generally; and after that the question whether, among other things, the land should be leased again was presumably entered into, but it appeared that it ended without a favourable result to the late lessees, as a "Gazette" notice appeared revoking the reserves and setting apart the land in five farms for original settlement leases, to become available on and after September 3 last. On that day a large number of persons applied for settlement leases, and the Dubbo Land Board sat on three days about the middle of the month named to consider the applications. The legal adviser for the present applicants appeared, and took certain objections to the board dealing with these applications. No. 2 of these was withdrawn, but Nos. 1 and 3 were overruled by the board for reasons stated in their finding. The board then proceeded to allot the land amongst the applicants. Appellants now appealed on the following grounds:—1. That the finding of the board as to objection No. 1 was wrong, as the notice in the "Gazette" of August 5, 1908, relied upon by the land board, was not the prescribed notice to the licensees, and such "Gazette" notice was only for the benefit of applicants, not licensees. 2. The board was wrong in deciding that the area was available for application for settlement lease on September 3, 1908, and in overlooking objection No. 3, as the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act is an Act to amend the Crown Lands Acts, and unless expressly stated and provided, must be subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts, and the revocation of the reserve from "Sale and Lease" was gazetted on August 5, 1908, not 60 days prior to September 3, 1908.

The first ground, the President stated, did not appear to him to be very strongly insisted upon, and it was not evident to him how it could be, for if the appellants had any status at all, or were entitled to notice, there were certain facts against them. Regulation 39 provided for at least 14 days' notice of the time and place provided for any proceedings before a board, to be given to any applicant, caveator, complainant, or other party or parties known to be concerned, but regulation 42a provided that where lands are set apart for homestead selection or settlement lease, or holdings of any other kind, notice may be published in the "Gazette" of an appointed date upon which the board will deal with any applications that may be made for such lands; if such notice is published no other notice under the Crown Lands Acts or regulations to persons concerned shall be necessary. Could an occupation licensee claim that that regulation might suffice for a settlement lease applicant, but not for him, and that it had no force as far as he was concerned? According to his view the appeal, so far as the first ground was concerned, should be dismissed. With regard to the second ground of the appeal, it was contended on behalf of the appellants that the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act is an Act amending the Crown Lands Acts; that under the provisions of section 12 of the Interpretation Act of 1897 it had to be construed with the Crown Lands Acts as part of those Acts; that the provisions of section 6 of the Reserves Declaratory Act of 1895 applied to the reserve brought into existence under the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act; that, in short, the lands were not open to settlement lease when they were notified to be available, or when they were applied for, or when the land board dealt with the applications. There were three points to be considered:—1. Is the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act an Act amending the Crown Lands Acts? 2. If it is such an amending Act, is it apparent that it is contrary to its intention that it should be construed with the Crown Lands Acts? 3. If it is an amending Act, does it amend the Crown Lands Acts in respect to section 6 of the Reserves Declaratory Act, or do the provisions of that section apply?

After considering the matter, the President, speaking of the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act, said it was a piece of very special legislation. It found a certain condition of things to exist, and applied a remedy to them. The operation of the Act was exhausted before the lands in question were advertised for settlement leases. The Act provided that Mr. Justice Owen should make a certain report and certificate. This he did. It provided that upon publication of this report and certificate certain improvement leases should then and there become cancelled and forfeited. It provided that the lessees should then and there, without anything being done on their part, become the occupation licensees of the land, and that the land should automatically (and without the usual notice in the "Gazette") become reserved from sale and lease generally. This was done; everything that the Act said was to be done was completed before the lands were set apart for settlement lease. It would be difficult to find another Act which owed its existence to so unusual a set of circumstances as surrounded the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act. The Legislature in effect said to certain holders of improvement leases: "We doubt whether you should have obtained the leases you hold. They will be cancelled, and a board will be appointed to inquire into the merits of the cases. In the meantime you will be entitled to occupy the land, and while the board is arriving at its conclusions the land will be protected for you against invasion by anyone else." Had the land not been so protected it would clearly have been open under the various provisions of the Crown Lands Acts, and conflicting interests and confusion would have arisen. The reservation was obviously for the sole protection of the improvement lessees themselves. After the board appointed under the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act had arrived at its determination the necessity for the reservation had practically ceased; and would an improvement lessee say the lease given him under the determination of the board was invalid because the reservation from lease was in force when he applied under that Act, and had not ceased to affect the land when he obtained his lease?

After further discussion of the matter, the president concluded, "The conclusion I have arrived at is that section 3 of the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act, is a section enacted for a particular and temporary purpose, and as part of the machinery of that Act alone; that it is a special section overriding the general section No. 6 of the Reserves Declaratory Act, so far as reservations under the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act are concerned; that the revocation of a reservation under the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act was not affected by the Reserves Declaratory Act, and that, while the reservation in the present case commenced immediately the improvement leases became cancelled and forfeited, it ceased to have any effect immediately revocation was notified in the Government 'Gazette.'" He therefore thought the appeal should be dismissed.

Mr. Commissioner Brandis concurred.

Mr. Commissioner Houston concurred with the finding so far as the first of the reasons given was concerned, but with regard to the second he held that the reserve from sale and lease generally must be from sale and lease under the Crown Lands Acts, and, having regard to the provisions of section 5 of the principal Act, it seemed to him the notification by the Governor of the revocation of the reserve, which, it was to be remembered, took place after the special purpose of the Act had been exhausted, would be subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts, and the period of 60 days specified in section 6 of the Reserves Declaratory Act would necessarily apply.

The appeal was therefore dismissed unanimously on the first ground, and by a majority of the Court on the second.

An appeal by the Bank of New South Wales against the confirmation of William Edwin Luke's settlement lease, No. 1908-5, Warren, and a further appeal by the same bank against the confirmation of Walter James Perry's settlement lease application, No. 1908-10, Warren, rested upon the same grounds as those detailed in Scott's case, and the Court unanimously dismissed them as far as the first ground was concerned, but by a majority as regarded the second, Mr. Commissioner Houston again dissenting.

Application was then made for an extended time within which to lodge notice requiring the Court to state a case for the decision of the Supreme Court, but it was refused.

An indescribably delightful sensation is procured by those who accustom themselves, immediately before retiring to rest, to take a mouth douche of Odol. This preparation penetrates the cavities of the teeth and the whole mucous membrane of the mouth, and its refreshing and agreeable antiseptic properties are felt at every breath that is drawn—a most useful and agreeable antidote to a stale mouth in the morning.—Advt.

Two interesting pages in this week's "Sydney Mail" are:—"When Santa Claus Came, Tommy's Christmas Eve Fright, A Scene on Cowan Creek.—Advt.

ON THE LAND.

FARM AND STATION.

THE FEEDING OF LIVE STOCK.

Although New South Wales is undoubtedly one of the finest countries in the world for feeding and keeping live stock, it is not good enough to provide stockkeepers with maximum returns while natural grasses only are depended upon, as has been the custom. It may be said that some improvement has been made on the reckless style of management which prevailed when all landholders made the best of their animals while there was grass, and allowed them to fall away in condition, and even to die right out when the feed failed. Formerly the practice, when the rainfall proved insufficient, and the country was desolated by drought, was simply to wait for the break-up, the only provision made being to make the best use of the water supplies, and perhaps shift the stock from one part of the place to another until everything was eaten up and the case was hopeless. Later, many of the pastoralists and farmers sought to save a proportion of their animals in the last extremity by buying fodder in such quantities as would keep life in the bodies of the starving creatures. It is since the record drought—which terminated in 1902—that this style of doing things has been considerably improved upon. Owners of live stock have realised that it is best to begin to feed before the animals are actually dropping, but before fodder is purchased efforts are made to secure pasturage in districts which are not so seriously affected by the bad season.

The moving of stock to country which happens to be favoured has grown to be a large business, and the most prudent of the live stock men secure a run with grass on it as soon as they are threatened with hard times. When the slow-moving policy of public works construction deals with the necessity for cross-country railway routes, the means of keeping live stock in all but a very general drought will be vastly increased; and when that is brought about it should be possible, with a moderate expenditure on fodder each year, to prevent serious losses in all affected districts. Something may be expected from irrigation, provided that the water is made available in such a way that large quantities of fodder may be raised in the dry districts every year. There is, thus, some prospect that fine healthy stock bred on our splendid pasture country may in the future be worked to the best advantage under the climatic conditions.

These matters, however, deal only with the actual saving of sheep and cattle, or rather with insurance against starvation and death. It would be very satisfactory to be able to say that in an equally important direction there is evidence of a marked improvement in the keeping of domestic animals for profit. In no other country in the world do owners attempt to rely upon pasture only to rear their animals and fatten them for market; nor is there any other land in which producing animals, such as dairy cattle, are expected to return a profit without artificially feeding in all seasons, save when the direst extremity is brought about by drought. Apparently it has always been held that because there is no necessity to house cattle in Australia during any period of the year, the natural grasses may be depended upon to keep them in good heart through all seasons, and there is no indication that this idea is about to be abandoned in favour of an auxiliary feeding system. Just a few of the most advanced stock-owners realise that the best returns are gained by keeping their animals in fair condition all through, and fewer still regularly supplement the natural grasses with a proper amount of feed.

It is true that fodder has been both scarce and dear in New South Wales during the past few years, but this is plainly due to the fact that farmers rely almost solely on their live stock, and fail to increase the area under cultivation; in fact, it is only too evident that they still believe it possible to carry on to the best advantage without raising fodder crops for stock as part of the regular operations of the year. When the grass fails and cattle fall off in condition, the returns immediately drop away to the unprofitable stage, yet it is not until it is absolutely necessary to keep the stock from running right down that fodder is purchased and fed to the animals. Naturally the farmers will then buy feed at high prices, and complain bitterly that they are losing money because the feed which goes to keep the animals alive comes too late to enable them to get up a fair measure of production. It is very truly said that it does not pay farmers to buy feed in this country, but it is not quite correct in the sense in which the statement is generally used. Losses are made because the feed is not purchased until it is too late to obtain a profit from the feeding. If buying feed to feed cattle would pay the farmer at all it would certainly be when he purchased a regular supply, and kept his animals in good producing form all the year round, giving no feed at all when grass was plentiful, and feeding in proportion as the natural provision failed. The best plan of all is, of course, to avoid purchasing at periods when everybody wants to buy, by raising fodder crops on the farm, and conserving these for regular use. Favoured as New South Wales is by nature, there is no district in the State in which there is a flush of natural feed which would keep dairy cattle producing at their best throughout a whole season. Even on the wonderful northern rivers there are times when the milk supply falls off, and there is the winter, during which not nearly so many cattle can be carried as in the summer, to be reckoned with. As soon as the milk supply falls off, the farmer begins to lose money. His cows, however good, will milk at their best for seven or eight months only, and if during that period there is a spell in which they are not half fed, he loses just when he should be making his best profit. A little auxiliary feeding when the grass is going off keeps the stock up to the mark, and if the times become very hard, a man who has a reserve of fodder can keep his cattle on a profit-yielding basis all through.

It is not too much to say that if two-thirds of the cattle kept for dairying purposes in New South Wales were thoroughly well fed throughout the season, the profits to the owners would be very much larger than those which accrue from the stock at present held. Compared with their competitors in other countries, the farmers of New South Wales are remarkably fortunate in respect to this question of feeding stock. Only in the very worst of times is it necessary to give full rations to live stock, while in other countries the animals must be housed and fed, without the aid of a blade of grass, for several months in every year. It is possible that the growing of crops and the making of ensilage is being more widely taken up than it has been in the past, but the most that can be said for the movement is that a few more people are going into it each year. There should be a silo on every farm in New South Wales, and until this principle of growing and conserving fodder becomes just as inevitably a part of the work of the year as the milking of cows or shearing of sheep, heavy losses will continue to be suffered where profits might be made.

ITEMS.

Rabbits in the Gundagai district have grown noticeably fewer during the past few weeks. The landholders there have been taking strong action against them, and by means of poison and other methods have accounted for a great number. But in the Cootamundra district people have been more remiss, and as the two places are not so far apart there is a probability that Gundagai stock may be replenished from Cootamundra. The pastures protection board, however, is taking action.

Some of the landholders in the western district of the State—or rather that portion of it which is closely settled—are already taking means to keep their flocks and herds from death by starvation. The summer, as a rule, in that part is not a wet season, and as feed is now short, and water in some places none too plentiful, they are sending their cattle away to more-favoured localities for agistment.

Patchiness appears to be the prevailing feature of the crops in the Coolamon district. The best will return as much as 22 bushels to the acre, but there are so many poor yields that the average will not, it is expected, be more than about 14 bushels.

A regrettable thing in connection with exposed situations in several parts of the country is that the list of plants that may be grown for hedges, so as to provide shelter for stock from the cold blasts of winter, is limited. There are plenty of exotic growths that flourish, but the country suits them too well, and they become nuisances. The briar, several kinds of prickly acacia, and others, when planted along a fence, flourish; but they spread, and in time tend to lay waste whole areas of country.

There is, after all, nothing better for hedge fencing than our own indigenous shrubs; but the trouble with them is that stock is fond of them. The saltbush, for instance, if it gets fair play, will grow so closely that birds find it difficult to get through the bushes. Cattle, however, can make short work of it, and so can sheep. Perhaps the best windbreak for paddocks is the ordinary wattle, which has a flavour that is not always tasteful to stock; and the bark, after the trees have passed their usefulness, is worth something, while the wood makes good firing.

The crop of stone fruits is better this year on the North Coast than for a generation past. So far, there is practically no fly pest. This is certainly not due to any action on the part of the farmers, who, by the way, seldom follow the industry in any but the most haphazard style. It is just possible, of course, that the fly may arrive in time to do much damage yet. But it is also noticeable that Queensland this year is experiencing less trouble from the same cause than formerly.

ENGLISH WOOL TRADE.

FORCING THE PACE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BRADFORD, Nov. 20.

We are undoubtedly living in very lively times, and instead of any downward movement things are altogether in the opposite direction. The past week has again been a noteworthy one, and the greatly increased interest in the wool trade has continued unabated. As could only be expected, the weight of actual business has not been upon the large scale that we have seen in the two weeks previous, but all the same a few belated spinners have been covering. It seems as if while many Yorkshire users have been sleeping factors and forces were growing beneath the surface until, like a volcano, they could not be contained any longer, but must give vent to their own powers. From first to last the raw material has forced the pace, and there are as yet no signs of any lowering elements. It certainly, on the surface, seems a little strange that in face of a big new clip we should have seen the "bust" up that we have, but it all shows how near the sheep's back the whole trade was.

LIMITED RESPONSE AT THE YARN END.

In the aggregate the advance has been considerable, and the next move should be a genuine one from the end of the manufacturer and piece merchant. Some contend that the raw material cannot move without the impetus coming from yarns and pieces, but that is not the view generally held in Bradford. I asked the market man of a large firm of export yarn merchants and shippers, "Has there been a corresponding move in yarns to what there has in tops?" And he smilingly replied "No." That view is an epitome of the verdict of all the rest. In this connection it is quite correct to say that a big weight of yarns has been bought, but purchased more on speculation than anything else. In other words, spinners have accepted contracts for so many thousand weights of yarns at the best price they could get in at through nothing else but fear that if they delayed purchasing they would have to pay more. But in seven cases out of ten practically no "particulars" have been given, and that is the weakness at that end of the present move. The rise in tops since the dark days of last spring and summer is considerable, and values are now getting more normal. A good 40's top at a shilling per lb has always been considered a very reasonable market price, and about the actual value of the article. When super 60's are at 2s then they, too, are neither ridiculously cheap nor exorbitantly dear. At current prices, and a good continuous trade, a profitable time both to grower and buyer would result, and after the heavy losses of the past year it is to be hoped that the present move will bring good to all parties.

TOPS ON THE CONTINENT.

All Continental news speaks of much more doing, the reports from both Germany and France being couched in inspiring language. The upward move has brought out considerable business, and mills are getting to work more fully. Futures this week have encountered another sharp rise, the quotation at Antwerp yesterday being 5.12½, or 22⅝d, while at Roubaix they have risen from 4.72½ (20 5-16d) on October 15, to 5.27½, or 23d, for River Plate tops, contract B. Notwithstanding the reported slackness of trade, the tops passing through the French conditioning houses do not show a serious shrinkage, and this is a fair criterion of the movement of trade. No particulars are forthcoming from Germany, and there is a nice increase at Roubaix, which is by far the most important centre of the worsted industry in France.

FURTHER STIFFENING OF RATES.

That the pace is being forced for all it is worth goes without saying, and this week in Bradford higher quotations in all qualities have been met with. At the same time merinos have not advanced anything like coarse and medium crossbreds, and yesterday one could buy a very good standard super 60's at 23d; in fact, there is a firm of importers who have two buyers in Australia who sold a guaranteed "pure" Australian tops for "spot" delivery at 22⅞d, the top being a really good super 60's. Another firm of merino topmakers was only quoting 22¼d and 23¼d for super 60's and 64's respectively, delivery next February, and both cases are simply astounding in face of the reports from all selling centres abroad. Most other firms are quoting 23½d and 23¾d for supers, and would rather not sell than otherwise. Plenty have lifted their quotations outside the range of real practical business on purpose not to commit themselves to further liabilities. Those buyers who purchased liberally at the first and second series are now to be congratulated on securing some very reasonable wool, though at the time it certainly looked dear enough. Wool has been particularly good to sell during the week at ¼d on last series rates; for fine qualities and crossbreds even a penny. Stocks of both wool and tops are in very small compass, and, as far as one can see, there is going to be a little squeeze. Everything at the moment seems bright, and buyers are going to London in better form than they have done for some time past.

GREAT FALL IN EXPORTS.

This year will stand out very prominently as offering a great contrast in the export trade of the United Kingdom to the record of the three previous years. All along the line there has been a serious shrinkage, and, as far as one can see, the end is not yet. Last month's Board of Trade returns are very unpleasant reading, there being a falling off during the past ten months of imports and exports combined of no less than £85,000,000. The movement of wool and textiles is what interests mostly our readers, and in the following table is shown the course of each during the last ten months:—

IMPORTS.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Wool, raw, lb.	543,422,208	582,684,616	583,208,600
Alpaca, etc., lb...	5,451,427	4,226,797	4,046,900
Mohair, lb.	22,319,875	25,300,026	19,084,590
Woolen cloth, yd...	3,287,818	2,830,743	2,474,978
Dress g'ds, stuffs, yd	79,078,147	64,873,425	50,889,626
EXPORTS.			
Wool, raw, lb.	23,725,700	27,505,400	27,067,000
Shoddy, mungo, etc. lb.	13,282,800	12,241,800	7,452,500
Flocks, lb.	1,621,700	1,478,000	1,175,700
Tops, lb.	32,892,600	30,853,000	29,143,800
Woollen yarn, lb.	1,802,400	2,302,100	1,738,000
Worsted yarn, lb. ..	44,200,500	47,157,800	40,517,100
Alpaca and mohair yarn, lb.	13,932,800	15,064,700	11,445,700
Woollen cloth, yd....	67,716,400	72,273,000	62,939,200
Worsted cloth, yd.	83,229,300	84,213,200	61,401,200
Flannels, yd.	7,521,700	7,082,200	5,509,900
Carpets, yd.	8,132,000	8,052,800	4,938,800
Blankets, pairs	592,087	671,722	519,658

THE WOOL TRADE IN BELGIUM.

A report on the trade and commerce of Belgium for 1907 and the first half of the present year, which has just been issued, states that, notwithstanding the decline in prosperity in the other branches of the wool industry, scouring and carbonising works had a prosperous year in 1907, and in spite of a slight falling off during the last three months of the year, the total production was far superior to that of the preceding year. In regard to the position during the present year the wool industry of Verviers continues to suffer from general stagnation and lack of confidence in sympathy with the downward course of all raw materials. The first quarter of 1908 was certainly one of the most unfavourable which the trade has known for a number of years, while prices have continued to fall to such an extent that there have been practically no market quotations, and business has been almost at a standstill.

BLAYNEY'S PREDICAMENT.

RABBITS, GRASSHOPPERS, AND DROUGHT.

BLAYNEY.—The country round wears a stricken look. There was a sharp frost last Saturday morning. Grasshoppers are very bad. Rabbits are very numerous. Pastures and crops are drying off seriously. Hay cutting is very light, owing to continued dry weather. Several owners have netted their holdings, and as a result holdings not netted are getting a larger proportion of rabbits. Heavy quantities are being delivered at the local freezing works.

PRICKLY PEAR PEST.

GILGANDRA.—A couple of months ago the Gilgandra branch of the Farmers and Settlers' Association decided to bring under the notice of the Minister the prevalence of prickly pear on Crown reserves. The complaint was provoked by the shire council's action in enforcing the law with respect to noxious weeds. Members said the shire councils should set an example by clearing the growths on the roads, and the Government should do the same on the river and reserves. Mr. Barlow has just completed a special trip, taking particular notice of the country in the Biddon district. He says that the pear is spreading rapidly, and now extends over a very large area of good country. He saw more of it on privately-owned lands than on Crown country, and noticed that few owners were commencing to clear it. He announced that strict measures will be taken by the department to compel the provisions of the Act to be carried out.

CREAM FOR FACTORIES.

QUICK TRANSIT DESIRED.

The Department of Agriculture calls the attention of dairy farmers to a practice which prevails in certain districts of holding back at the farms for several days cream intended for the factories. This results in a deterioration in the quality of the cream. In a case under notice about two-thirds of the cream was collected on three days a week, the remainder being sent in twice a week. No effort appeared to be made by the farmers to assist the transit of cream from dairy to factory, their principal aim being to obtain a knowledge of testing, in order to check the results from the factory.

To ensure the manufacture of a good butter co-operation by the farmers in the collection and quick delivery of their cream is absolutely necessary. In large districts it is usual either for the company to collect the cream or for arrangements to be made for collection and delivery by contract, each farmer paying a small sum towards the expenses, and the system is satisfactory so long as the collection is made frequently enough; but in small districts where this cannot be done, and also in large districts where the collection is not frequent, farmers living close to one another should combine so as to have a frequent delivery, each taking it in turn to collect and deliver the whole of the cream.

If this were done it would, it is said, effect a saving both in time and money, each farmer having to go in to the factory, say, only once a week, and, provided all the suppliers worked in unison, and thus enabled the company to work each day's milkings separately, the cream would realise a better price on account of the superior butter it would produce.

THE PRICE OF MILK.

SHELLHARBOUR.—A meeting of the local branch of the South Coast and West Camden Milk Suppliers' Union was held here on Monday night. The Mayor (Alderman Buckley) presided. A resolution was carried protesting against preference being given to any suppliers by the distributing companies, and that the price of milk be raised to 10d per gallon. The farmers consider the demands reasonable, as the supply is falling off owing to the continued dry weather.

LAND SELECTED.

The following statement shows the lands selected under the Crown Lands Acts during the week ended December 16 and during the 24 weeks from July 1 to December 16, 1908:—

Class of Holding.	During wk. ending Dec. 16: No. of Applicants.	During wk. ending Dec. 16: Area. Acres.	During 24 w. from July 1: No. of Applicants.	During 24 w. from July 1: Area. Acres.
ORIGINAL HOLDINGS.				
Applied for as—Original Conditional Purchases	15	1,618	713	111,785
Conditional leases applied for simultaneously with and in virtue of Orig. O.C.P.'s	(8)	2,807	(428)	188,449
Conditional Purchase Leases	6	6,188	188	147,537
Original Homestead Selections	6	1,738	112	31,505
Original Settlement Leases	—	—	81	271,722
Settlement Purchases	—	—	—	—
Total of new settlers	27	12,641	1,095	751,044
ADDITIONAL HOLDINGS.				
Applied for as Additional Conditional Purchases (of Crown Lands)	15	3,779	447	67,808
Conditional leases taken simultaneously with O.C.P.'s	17	6,327	667	211,275
Additional Homestead Selections	2	136	38	12,174
Additional Settlement Leases	—	—	23	24,504
Total	34	10,242	1,175	316,461

THE HARVEST.

INVERELL.—Harvesting is in full swing. There are good yields and excellent grain. From five to nine bags (old standard) to the acre are being obtained.

MILLTHORPE.—Harvesting about Millthorpe is now in full swing. The hay crops are reaped. The oat crops are now being reaped, and the wheat crops will be fit to operate upon in about a week or 10 days' time. The first truck of new season's hay was trucked on Saturday by Mr. A. M'Dermott. It was off Mr. J. Worboys' farm.

PARKES.—Harvesting operations are drawing to a close, and will remain unfinished on very few farms at Christmas. The yield will not exceed the estimated average of five bushels per acre, though as high as 25 bushels have been gathered in some cases.

DAIRYING.

DENMAN.—The output of the Denman Co-operative Dairy Company, Ltd., for the month of November was 32,138lb of butter, the amount distributed amongst suppliers being £1900. The company has secured top Sydney prices for their butter.

DISTRICT ITEMS.

DENMAN.—The crops in this district are rather backward. Some of the maize, pumpkins, etc., show signs of dry weather; but the lucerne on the Hunter River flats seems to flourish, especially where it is irrigated. The men employed on the irrigation farms are kept very busy continually harvesting for lucerne, and the king of all fodders thrives most luxurantly in rich soil, with plenty of heat and water.

STOCK MOVEMENTS.

DENMAN.—Last week two large mobs of bullocks were taken delivery of at Denman by Messrs. Martindale White Bros.; there were about 1200 bullocks in each mob. They came from Dalgonally, which is situated about 120 miles north-east of Cloncurry (Queensland). They have travelled about 1600 miles. They fared well whilst in Queensland, but after crossing the border at Mungindi, they had a hard time, the stock routes being quite eaten out by the landowner who have them leased.

PHOSPHORUS POISONING.

A YOUNG WOMAN'S DEATH.

Mr. Stephen Murphy, acting city coroner, conducted an inquest yesterday concerning the death of Gertrude Phillips, 24, a single woman, lately living at Archer-street, Chatswood, which occurred at the Royal North Shore Hospital on December 14.

Richard Phillips, deceased's brother, stated that on December 10 his sister complained to Mrs. Miller, who lived at the same house, that she felt bilious. Three days later she seemed to be much better and went to sleep. At about 9.30 on the evening of December 13 she became unconscious, and Dr. Goldsmith was called in. The doctor asked Mrs. Miller if deceased had been taking match-heads. Mrs. Miller was unable to say that she had. He ordered her removal to the North Shore Hospital, where she died on the following day. Deceased appeared peculiar at times, but never expressed any intention of taking her life.

Other evidence showed that deceased had made certain extraordinary statements to Mrs. Miller. Deceased, however, had been in the habit of not speaking the truth, especially in regard to the state of her health.

Dr. A. A. Palmer, who made a post-mortem examination of the body, said that death was due to phosphorus poisoning.

The coroner recorded a verdict accordingly, adding that the poison was self-administered.

Infantile colic is promptly cured by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy.—Advt.

TRAMWAY WAGES BOARD.

ELECTRICAL AND POWER ISSUES.

AWARD DELIVERED.

The Tramway Board, as reconstructed to determine the issues filed by the electric and power-house branches of the service, consisting of Mr. Justice Street (President), the Commissioners for Railways, and Messrs. H. Lawton, F. J. Murray (electrical branch), and W. Keaty (power-house), delivered its award yesterday. The subject was a dispute between the Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways and his employees engaged in the electrical branch of the Government tramway service, including therein the electrical staff, the power-house staff, tower-waggon drivers, linemen, and car-cleaners, but not including engineers or electricians. The award was as follows:—

ELECTRICAL STAFF.

1. The following shall be the lowest rates of wages payable to the undermentioned classes of employees:—Standby pitmen, 9s 6d per day; pitmen, first year 8s, second year 8s 6d, thereafter 9s; controller men, first year 7s 6d per day, thereafter 8s; pitmen's assistants, 7s 6d; general labourers, first six months 6s 6d, thereafter 7s.

2. A pitman's assistant within the meaning of this award is a labourer who during any portion of a shift assists a pitman.

3. Pitmen now in receipt of 8s 6d per day shall be forthwith entitled to 9s per day. Pitmen now in receipt of 8s, and who have been so employed for not less than 12 months, shall be entitled to 8s 6d per day.

4. Controller men now in receipt of 7s 6d per day shall be forthwith entitled to 8s per day.

5. Employees shall not be required to take the night shift oftener than every alternate week.

6. Employees required for duty on "day off" shall be paid at time and a quarter rates.

7. Except as aforesaid, the existing conditions as to hours and rates payable for overtime worked shall continue to prevail.

POWER HOUSE STAFF.

(1) The following shall be the lowest rates of wages paid to the under-mentioned classes of employees:—Greasers on vertical engines, 9s per day; greasers on horizontal reciprocating engines 8s 6d; water tenders, 9s; coal conveyer attendants, 9s; firemen, 9s; trimmers and fuel men, 8s; boiler cleaners, 7s 6d; general labourers, first six months 6s 6d, thereafter 7s.

(2) The existing conditions as to hours and as to rates payable for overtime worked shall continue to prevail.

TOWER-WAGGON DRIVERS.

(1) The lowest rates of wages for drivers of tower waggons shall be 8s per day.

(2) 108 hours divided as far as practicable into 12 days of nine hours each shall constitute a fortnight's work for maintenance tower-waggon drivers.

(3) 96 hours divided as far as practicable into 12 days of eight hours each shall constitute a fortnight's work for emergency tower-waggon drivers.

(4) Overtime shall be paid for all time worked in case of necessity in excess of 108 hours in any fortnight, or nine hours worked in any one day by maintenance tower-waggon drivers, or in excess of 96 hours in any fortnight or 8 hours in any one day by emergency tower-waggon drivers, in accordance with the scale for computing overtime, which came into operation in the service on July 1, 1902, except as to overtime worked on Christmas Day, Good Friday, or any public holiday, on which days overtime shall be paid for at time and a quarter rates.

LINE MEN.

(1) The lowest rate of wages for line men shall be 9s per day.

(2) 96 hours divided as far as practicable into 12 days of 8 hours each shall constitute a fortnight's work for line men.

(3) Time worked in case of necessity in excess of such 96 hours per fortnight, or in excess of 8 hours in any one day, shall be paid for in accordance with the scale for computing overtime, which came into operation in the service on July 1, 1902, except as to overtime worked on Christmas Day, Good Friday, or any public holiday, on which days overtime shall be paid for at time and a quarter rates.

CAR CLEANERS.

1. The following shall be the lowest rates of wages payable to the undermentioned classes of employees:—Youths from 16 to 17 years of age, 2s 3d per day; 17 to 18, 2s 6d; 18 to 19, 3s; 19 to 20, 4s; 20 to 21, 5s.

2. Such employees when working night shift shall receive 6d extra per night.

EMPLOYEES PERFORMING HIGHER DUTIES.

Employees called upon to perform higher duties shall, while performing such duties, be paid the minimum rate for the higher position provided that such minimum is not lower than the employees' regular rate of pay.

PROMOTION.

1. Promotion to the position of greaser, water tender, pitman, fireman, fuelman, or trimmer shall be according to fitness and seniority.

2. Other things being equal, promotion to the grade of pitman shall be made as vacancies occur from the grade of pitman's assistant or controller man.

3. Other things being equal, the senior pitman's assistant or controller man at the depot shall be appointed to the vacancy in case of a pitman being relieved.

CHARGES.

1. Any employee, on being summoned to attend at the head office of his branch for an alleged fault or charge shall be informed in the notification summoning him (a) of the nature and the particulars of the alleged fault or charge; (b) that a copy of the report containing the charge can be inspected at his depot; (c) that the original can be seen at the head office.

2. Such copies shall be available for inspection at the depot at least 24 hours before the time at which such employee is summoned to attend at the head office of the branch.

3. Any employee so charged shall have the right to call evidence on his behalf prior to his being finally dealt with by the head of his branch.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. When men are brought to the head office in connection with an ordinary inquiry an allowance of ordinary rates shall be made for their time, and where necessary their fares shall be paid or tickets given to them.

2. A notice shall be exhibited in a conspicuous place at each depot, containing a list of the staff attached thereto in the order of seniority of tramway service.

INTERPRETATION.

In the event of any dispute or disagreement arising between the said Chief Commissioner and the said union in respect of the true interpretation, meaning, or intention of this award, or of any clause or part thereof, such dispute or disagreement shall be referred to the chairman of the board, and his decision shall be final.

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF AWARD.

1. Except as to the provision that employees on the electrical staff shall not be required to take the night shift more often than every alternate week, this award shall come into operation as and from December 31, 1908. 2. The said provision that men shall not be required to take the night shift more often than every alternate week shall come into operation as and from February 1 next. 3. The award shall continue in force until December 31, 1911.

UNIVERSITY SCOUTS.

ANNUAL CAMP.

Hot weather, thunderstorms, and hard work have been the lot of the University Scouts who broke camp on Tuesday morning. The scouts went into camp on Wednesday, but owing to the University examinations several members had to postpone their training. The camp broke, however, with a total of 104 out of the full enrolment of 125, which marks an increase on those participating in the previous year.

Some good and useful work has been put in, including night attacks and marches in the dark. This is an interesting phase of camp life, but it is also one which calls for considerable tact and bushmanship in rugged country like National Park. On Sunday a well-earned rest was taken, and a church parade held, at which the Rev. Hillhouse Taylor, of Sutherland, presided. On Monday an inspection was held by Colonel Bartlett, and further drill, terminating with the annual meeting of the rifle club. On striking camp on Tuesday the scouts carried out a tactical scheme on the way to the railway station. During various manoeuvres some narrow escapes from snake-bite were experienced, and a number of these reptiles were killed. It would appear that snakes are particularly numerous this summer at National Park. Major R. C. Simpson, who was in command, spoke highly of the manner in which the men had carried out a great amount of strenuous and useful work.

SPEECH DAYS.

At the distribution of prizes at Highfield College, Turramurra, the students made presentations to the headmaster (Mr. L. A. Redgrave, B.A.), Mr. Harold W. Redgrave, B.A., and Mrs. Redgrave (matron).

At the annual prize distribution at the Rangers' Girls' School, Spencer-road, Mosman, an address and other presentations were made to the principals and teachers. The following names were omitted from the recent list of successes at the Associated Board's examination:—Miss Finlay, Burwood Ladies' College: Higher division—Pass, piano: E. Seccomb, E. Edginton. Miss Hardwick, Burwood Ladies' College: Elementary division—Pass, piano: E. C. Thom. Miss Jowett, School of Music, Pymble: Elementary division—Distinction, piano: N. Clark.

At the breaking up for Christmas vacation on Friday, the pupils of the infant department, North Granville Superior Public School, presented their teacher (Miss M'Namara) with a silver serviette ring, suitably inscribed. The presentation was made by Miss Connie Blake.

WITH THE FLAGSHIP.

In "With the Flagship of the South" (William Brooks and Co.) Mr. C. E. W. Bean, who was special correspondent on board the Powerful when she went out to meet the American fleet, writes a pleasant little series of impressions of a notable trip. The substance of a number of the sketches has appeared in this journal, and many readers who then appreciated the writer's vigorous and picturesque style will be glad to have this matter in a more permanent form. Other chapters are seen now for the first time. Mr. Bean here shows himself a descriptive writer of no little skill. The narrative includes the outward voyage of the Powerful, a visit to Norfolk Island, a vivid description of "the heart of a ship," impressions of Fiji, sketches of life on shipboard, and an eloquent plea for the Australian navy of the future. A very effective set of photographs and some good sketches by the author add charm to the volume, and the publishers have given two very creditable specimens of colour-printing.

"For the Blood is the Life."—Clarke's World-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold by all Chemists and Storekeepers. Beware of worthless imitations.—Advt.

Arnott's Double XX Soda Biscuits.

THE BISCUITS FOR LUNCH.

THE BISCUITS FOR TEA.

NICE FOR SUPPER.

THE BISCUITS FOR PICNICS.

FOR HOME OR ABROAD.

ASK FOR ARNOTT'S.

MESSRS. WILLIAM ARNOTT, LIMITED, WISH ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS

A PLEASANT CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

HOUSES AND LAND FOR SALE.

BOXING DAY AT WOY WOY.

LAND FOR SALE, ON THE GROUND, FROM £14 BLOCK.

5/ DOWN. 5/ MONTH.

These are Quarter-acre Slices of the Best Land in the Woy Woy district. They are part of Restwell Estate, situated between the Rip and Bar at Ettalong Beach, right on the Fishing Grounds. The land is perfectly level, on the mainland, about 2 miles from the station, is Torrens Title, and a ferry launch plies backwards and forwards daily.

SECURE A PLAN AND BOOKLET OF RESTWELL, AND INSPECT THESE LOTS. A SALESMAN WILL BE ON THE GROUND ALL BOXING DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY TO MAKE SALES.

ARTHUR RICKARD AND CO., LTD.,

84B PITT-STREET. SELLERS OF GOOD LAND ON EASY TERMS.

FACING CENTENNIAL PARK.

YORK-ROAD is now practically fully built over.

Of the 15 Substantial, Handsome Dwellings erected by us, under strict supervision, only ONE REMAINS.

It is magnificent value, well designed, strongly built, splendidly finished, and

WILL GIVE EVERY SATISFACTION.

CLARENDON, a very handsome VILLA RESIDENCE, corner position, with 58ft frontage, massive stone foundations, well up from the ground, 7 good rooms, kitchen, and offices, dome ceilings, electric bells, verandahs front, side (tiled), and at rear, sewer.

ONLY £1000. CHEAP AT £1250.

We have also on the same Government Subdivision, in good position, but not fronting the Park, 2 NEW DETACHED BRICK COTTAGES, double-fronted, 4 rooms, kit., etc, £525. Good value and worth inspection.

THE INTERCOLONIAL INVESTMENT CO., LTD., 14 Moore-street, city. Established 1885. W. J. DOUGLAS, Manager.

ROSE BAY.

A FEW CHOICE GENTN.'S RESIDENCES AND COTTAGES,

from £500 to £1700.

Convenient to tram, golf links, and baths.

SPLENDID BUILDING SITES, from £3 per ft. A few ELEVATED SITES, from 20s per ft. DEEP WATER FRONTAGES, from 72s 6d per ft.

RICHARDSON AND CO.

107 Pitt-street, and Rose Bay.

WHY NOT HAVE A COUNTRY HOME IN THE SOUTHERN HILLS? AT MITTAGONG. Elevation 2072ft, beautiful hills and valleys, pleasant drives and walks; Lady Mary Fitzroy's Health-giving MINERAL SPRING, recommended by medical men and largely used. Allotments of all sizes to choose from in and around Mittagong, in blocks of from ½acre upwards. Prices from £4 10s per acre, with easy terms. Maps, Plans, and full particulars on application to the MITTAGONG LAND COMPANY, Ltd., 86 Pitt-street, Sydney; or J. A. MOSES, Mittagong.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT-STREET.

ROSE BAY ESTATE, ROSE BAY.

The Central Position of this Beautiful Suburb, SUPERIOR BRICK VILLAS, occupying splendid positions, overlooking Golf Links, close to Tram and Baths, and surrounded by GOOD CLASS BUILDINGS.

HANDSOME BRICK VILLA, stone foundations, harbour view, containing main and side hall, 6 good rooms, kitchen, and offices, arch connecting drawing and dining rooms, dome ceilings, verandah front and rear, porch at side. £800.

WELL-DESIGNED BRICK COTTAGE, 5 good rooms, kitchen, and offices; Land 45 feet frontage. £560.

ALSO,

Several other New Brick Cottages and Villas, £600, £650, £700, £850.

Also, BEST and CHEAPEST BUILDING SITES in ROSE BAY. Torrens Title.

Easy Terms arranged.

INTERCOLONIAL INVESTMENT CO., LTD., 14 Moore-street, city, W. J. DOUGLAS, Manager.

BALMORAL, Raglan-street.—Only 4 Lots left; £2 deposit, balance 20s monthly; 1 minute from the beach and the wharf. Plans from ERNEST C. V. BROUGHTON, 113 Pitt-street.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BARK in the sunshine of the Joe Gardiner footwear bargains, Oxford and George st boot stores.

FAMILY Home, 6 good rooms, kitchen, laundry, in good order, land 5 acres, at Auburn, stables, sheds, city water avail., £350; only £50 down, bal. as rent. A gift. Robert W. J. Harley, 5 Moore-street, Sydney.

CASH Wanted.—A GOOD SPEC.! AT AUBURN 132 feet frontage, good building land, Torrens Title, very handy pos., close shops, only £30, worth double. R. W. J. HARLEY, 5 Moore-street, Sydney.

PRETTY NEW VILLA, 4 rooms, kitchen, laundry, bath, copper, tubs, in beautiful position, close Auburn stn., Torrens, only £260, terms. ROBERT W. J. HARLEY, 5 Moore-street, Sydney.

A MORTGAGEES' BARGAIN, AT ASHFIELD. BRICK HOUSE, 6 rooms, kitchen, washhouse, etc., nice Block Land. Price, £400. Very Easy Terms. J. A. SOMERVILLE and CO., 4 Hercules-street, Ashfield. We close Dec. 24. Re-open Jan. 4.

NORTH BOTANY.—W.B. Cottage, lnd 33 x 130, £150. CITY.—Terrace 6 bk. Houses, rents £2 14s, £900. GLEBE PT.—Villa, 6 rms., hall, harbour view, £450. LILYFIELD.—Bk. Villa, 5 rms., stabl., 60 x 95, £800. LEWISHAM.—Two brick Houses, ea. 8 rms., £400 ea. TALBOT and SHOPPEE, Auc., 113 Eliz.-st. n. Mkt.-st.

CLOSE TO FERN-HILL AND WARDELL-ROAD RAILWAY STATIONS.

Handy to DULWICH HILL TRAM.

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Tanners,
117 York-street, Sydney.

CASH OR TERMS.—20 Horses and Ponies, Farm Mares, all kinds Vehicles; Child's Pony, £4; Village Cart, Horse, Har., £6; Pagnel Cart Turnout, £7; Dealer's Turnout, £8; Dealer's Turnout, £9. 128 George-st W.

SMALL Pony, Bradley Cart, Harness, £12, suit lady; Springcart, Horse, Harness, £7; Horse, Milk Cart, Harness, £8; Sulky, Pony, Harness, £12; Fruit Van, Horse, Harn., £10. 207 Thomas-street, Haymarket.

FOR SALE, high-class Sulkies, with Lloyd's patent hub brake, specially adapted for rubber tyres; also very cheap Sulkies, Governess Cars, Butcher's Cart, Grocer's Cart. 162 Bay-street. Tel., 448 Glebe.

CASH or Terms.—Ten Horses and Ponies; Village Cart Turnout, £12; Sulky Turnout, £14; Child's Pony, £4; Dealer's Van, £8; New Sulky, £10; three covered Waggons. 41 Engine-street, Haymarket.

FIRST-CLASS Sulky or Buggy Cob, thick-set, prime condition, 15 hands, quiet and sound; Dogcart, and Harness. PINE GROVE,
Wells-street, Newtown.

GELD. (15.1), staunch, free goer, quiet, suit any light har., with Sulky and Har. to match, also 2 Sets light Har., nearly new, sell cheap.
Corrvong, Juliett-street, Enmore.

SUPERIOR PONY TURNOUT for Sale; Pony, brown, 13 hands, quiet, and stylish; Rubber-tyred Sulky, built by Haining, and best quality Rubber and Gold Harness, or separate. 86 Pitt street, Redfern.

SALE, 5 Square Brougham Cabs, lic., rubber and iron tyres, cheap. W. Fifer, Junction-st, Forest Lodge.

FOR Sale, Butcher's Cart and 3 Barrows. 188 Crown-rd, Pyrmont, between Fig and Allen sts.

FOR Sale, very quiet bay Pony, about 14 hands, staunch and strong, £15. Wetherill's-buildings, Ashfield.

SALE, good Pony, 12.3; also 3 1st-class Sulkies, cheap. Selling business. 129 Australia-st, Newtown.

SUPERIOR Rubber-tyred Sulky, also good Buggy, Soc., for Sale. Smith, 380 Parramatta-rd, P'sham.

FOR Sale, gd. Sulky T'out, quiet, free Horse, any trial, lady drive. Smith, 380 P'matta-rd, P'sham.

SALE, last 12.2 Pony, brass-mtd. Sporting Sulky, Har., trial, togeth., sep. 24 Redmond-st, Lhrdt.

VILLAGE CART, very strong, good order, £3 15s. Ryan, 10 Milford-st, Chippendale, nr. Wel'gton-st.

LIGHT Express Waggon, £11 10s; gd. Bent-shaft Sulky, 7gns. 10 Short-st, Forest Lodge.

LANDAU, first-class order, light, inspect this, real gift. 235 Parramatta-rd, Leichhardt.

TWELVE HAND Pony, suit lady or gent., owner leaving dist., £12. 422 Crown-st, Surry Hills.

BENTSHAFT SULKY, £5; Grocer's Cart, small, £6; Pony, Sulky, Harn., £16, terms. 109 Palmer-st.

STYLISH 13-hand Pony, Bent Sulky, and Harn., suit lady, cheap. Grocer, 81 Mitchell-st, Glebe.

FOR SALE, 2 Heavy Draught Horses, any trial. 153 Mansfield-st, Rozelle.

PONY, Sulky, Harn., £12 lot; separate, Horse, £4 10s; Van, Harness. 163 Wilson-st, Newtown.

GOAT, in milk and kid, for Sale, quiet. Wiffin, Premier-st, Marrickville.

FOR SALE, quiet Pony Mare, 14.1, any trial, £6. W. Kemp, 11 Munni-st, Newtown, off Union-st.

A LIGHT Spring Cart, by J. Baldick, nrly new, £10. J. Castle, and Sons, 32 King-st, Newtown.

FOR HIRE, Boxing Day, Drag, Sulkies, Sociables, with or without horses. 61 King-st, Newtown.

CHILD'S Pony, Sulky, Harness, suit lady, must sell, good lot. 109 Palmer-st, off Oxford-st.

WANTED to Purchase, staunch Horse, Van, and Harness; Avery Scales, L'st price, Cash, P.O., Hom'bh.

WANTED to Hire, Horse and Dray, month or two. Price, particulars. Country, 129 Regent-st, city.

WANTED to Buy, good sec.-hand Roomy Saddle, Bridle. Edwd. Labatt, Dudley-st, Randwick.

WANTED to Buy, TIPCARTS, Ballarette preferred. F. Coghlan, 22 Dowling-st, Paddington.

WANTED, Sulky for small pony, wheels no object, and Harness. King, Short-st, Forest Lodge.

WANTED, 2 Van, Horse, and Harness, cheap, trial necessary. 430 Parramatta-rd.

HORSE wanted, suit cab, 16 hands. Howlett, Terrace-rd, Dulwich Hill.

DEAD and Worn-out Horses bought, highest price given. W. Tumeth, Bank-st, Chip'dale. T., 236 Red.

DEAD Horses and Cows Bought, to 10s head; alive to £1. J. Connelly. Tel., 338 Redfern.

YOU'LL get Shoe satisfaction and delight for your pocket at Joe Gardiner's two big boot stores.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

OUR STATE SYSTEM.

MUNICIPALISM AT WORK.

STREET NOISES.

The City Council has a number of very valuable bylaws for shielding the citizens from annoyance caused by undue noise. For example, it can prevent anyone "making a violent outcry, noise, or disturbance in any of the streets of the city to the annoyance of anyone either in the street or in dwellings or business places abutting on such street." Yet every day, in the most crowded business portions of the city (to say nothing of the residential areas) fruit hawkers go their noisy way, and it takes a month at least in order to get the nuisance abated by the civic authorities. There is another injunction against the playing or "sounding upon" any musical instrument, or singing in the city streets, to the annoyance of the public. Yet the organgrinder pursues his deadly way with equanimity in the centre of the business portions of the city, where the banker, the accountant, and the busy journalist are striving to apply their faculties to their work, and are unable owing to the carelessness of the civic body in protecting the public from the consequences of the infringement of the city bylaws. Possibly the civic authorities are too exhausted after the struggles with the College of Heralds and their efforts in changing the status of Sydney from the town of Tweedledum to the city of Tweedledee to see that their own bylaws are respected.

* * * * *

MUNICIPAL BANDS.

Open-air concerts in the municipal and shire parks in the summer months are full of possibilities in the way of the advancement of the health and recreation of the citizens of the areas in which they are in vogue. One of the most advanced and successful in this important matter is the municipality of Ashfield. Some little while ago a series of concerts were started. The price of admission was 6d, with children half-price. The items on the programme consisted of mixed classical and popular music—vocal and instrumental. There were also recitations. The profits on the first concert were £1 1s, on the second £11 8s, and on the third £14 19s. This will show how the concerts have grown in public favour. At the last concert the expenses were £15, consisting of £13 12s to the artists, advertising £2 15s, sundries £2 2s 2d. The receipts were £33 8s 3d. This result should encourage other councils all over the State to emulate Ashfield, as such concerts, besides their hygienic value, can be made highly educational in their results.

* * * * *

DIRT PRODUCERS.

One of the things which must strike an intelligent stranger in Sydney—it never seems to be noticed by our own citizens—is the deliberate way in which the Tramway Department arranges for untidiness in the streets by the system of tramway tickets in use. The City Council has put up wire bins or boxes at every tram stopping-place, in order that the nuisance caused by the system may be minimised as much as possible. It might occur to the visitor, or the citizen, that the Tramway Department should have put such bins on the cars, and enforce a regulation that the passenger should tear up the ticket and put it in the receptacle in the car. Or could not the department introduce a better and more up-to-date system? There are many such systems in use elsewhere. In Melbourne a very good one exists, which seems to give unqualified satisfaction to the public and the company's shareholders. The conductor, when he collects the money, punches the ticket, or if the tickets are sold in bundles, each is punched as it is collected. Nothing gets on to the street. The Tramway Company consumes its own dirt. In the United States the well-known Sterling system is in force. The car has a visible register at one end. As the conductor collects the fare from the passenger he pulls a cord, or a rod, which registers the fare on the machine. This register cannot go backwards. At the end of the journey an inspector or checker comes along, reads the register, and releases the machine by means of a knob, and sends it back to zero. No tickets are used at all. Some of these machines register transfers and other intricate matters automatically.

CIVIC UNTIDINESS.

The tramway debris is one of the most fruitful causes of the name for untidiness which Sydney has unfortunately acquired. Business men are constantly complaining of the dirtiness of the city, and the same complaint is made of the suburbs. It is not only a reflection upon our civic pride, but it means a burden upon the ratepayers which they have no right to be called upon to bear. Where dirt can be avoided by good management, or by the adoption of an up-to-date system, no time should be lost in adopting such a system. It cannot be urged that the present is the best of all possible systems, because in one essential feature it fails, or is alleged by the department to have failed, viz., in the prevention of swindling by dishonest employees. The ratepayers in the city have a right to be protected from the stupid ways of the Tramway Department, whose methods in this and other respects are a defiance of all sane civic rules as accepted in other spheres, and a cause of civic anarchy and unnecessary expense. Lest it be thought that this statement is an exaggeration, the public will remember that the tramways are the worst offenders in regard to the dust nuisance, and take less pains than the local authorities through whose areas they pass to minimise the nuisance by constant watering. Also, their delinquencies are well-known in regard to ruining the levels of many of our streets, and establishing levels of their own, without saying by your leave to the local authority, which is responsible to the citizens, and is usually blamed wrongly for things in which the real culprits are the tramway authorities. Such arbitrary action, and such slipshod and untidy methods, are calculated to bring State ownership and management into disfavour.

* * * * *

THE HIGH COURT AND MUNICIPAL LAW.

The High Court of Australia has refused leave to appeal against the decision of the New South Wales Supreme Court in the case of Rohan v the Municipality of St. Peters, and as the amending Act did not include the section aiming at making the councils responsible for non-repair, municipal men may now be permitted to heave a sigh of relief in unison with the ratepayers. The decision of the New South Wales Supreme Court, as delivered by Sir Frederick Darley, will be read with great interest in the future, and will no doubt be pasted up in the records of every council. Few Judges have had a wider experience of the law of local government and of the peculiar conditions existing in the remote districts of the State than the Chief Justice. In his judgment he pointed out that the liability which would be imposed by the new reading of the law was so far-reaching in a country such as this that it would make every municipality or shire within its own area "an insurer to each member of the public against accidents arising from non-repair of the road."

A ROAD FOR FIFTY MILES.

He also pointed out that a public road might run for 50 miles through a shire, and that if the councils were to keep these roads in such a state of repair as to insure everyone using the roads against accidents occurring from non-repair, the rates of the shire, which were limited by the Act, would not suffice to cover the damages. He ruled that the introduction of the word "maintenance" was not sufficient to saddle the councils with the liability. It is interesting here to note that in England, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada the law on this subject is uniform, and no liability exists in a public body for nonfeasance. In the United States an old decision of Mr. Justice Park in the House of Lords has been followed in 31 States of the Union, viz., that a council is liable for non-repair. But in the New England State proper (as Sir Robert Stout relates), and in Arkansas, California, Michigan, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Wisconsin, the present English rule holds good: that is, that a corporation is not liable unless the statute expressly recognises such liability.

* * * * *

HONEST EFFORT.

In connection with the criticism of Broken Hill finance, recently reviewed in this column, the claim put forward by Alderman Doe, of the Broken Hill Council, who is the spokesman of the progressives on this matter, is that, although the council is temporarily obliged to apply for permission to borrow, it has financed its progressive undertakings, such as electric lighting, abattoirs, sanitary plant, fire-extinguishing plant and buildings, halls and reading-rooms, public baths, and recreation pavilions in the parks, on honest and business-like lines. He contends that these works have been constructed almost wholly out of revenue. This does not appear clearly from the statement published on August 13 last in the Sydney "Worker," in reply to some observations in this column; but if it is so, of course it is most commendable, and furnishes a very bright contrast to the methods of other councils under the old regime. He points to the fact that some of the services which have just been completed have made the burdens heavy, but now that they are completed the revenue will commence to come in, and, with the new rating limit, will put the council in a far better financial position than it ever has been in before. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished by the ratepayers of Broken Hill.

* * * * *

A BUILDING ACT.

Parliament has again prorogued without dealing with a Building Act. Most of the legislation of the session was trivial in importance compared with the great question of housing and regulating buildings on modern principles, as Canon Boyce conclusively showed in his evidence before the Royal Commission on City Improvement. The City Council has had a building bill prepared and printed, and the Lord Mayor has gone to some trouble to obtain the practical opinions of architects and builders in order to make it more effective in working. Most Australian Governments nowadays appear to be making all the haste possible to pass into law measures which appear on the labour programmes. As it happens that the Labour party has never evinced the slightest shred of interest in municipal matters, and consequently has not "programmed" building or housing bills, those important subjects have remained in their original obscurity, at about the point they were in when Sydney was comparatively new, and modern hygienic construction, sanitary plumbing, and strictly prescribed building conditions were unknown.

SOUTH COAST LINES.

BEFORE WORKS COMMITTEE.

The Public Works Committee met yesterday. The first business was the consideration of the expediency of constructing a tramway from Bomaderry (Nowra) to Jervis Bay. The witness was Mr. W. J. Hanna, Under-Secretary Public Works Department. He submitted a report from the Chief Commissioner for Railways, which stated that the proposed line was 15 miles 20 chains in length. It would cost £59,863, or £3920 a mile, exclusive of land compensation and strengthening the bridge over the Shoalhaven River. Two-thirds of the land to be passed through was alienated. The annual payment for interest would be £2095, for maintenance £2576. The estimated revenue would be £1248, leaving a loss of £3423. The population of the Jervis Bay region was very sparse, and the town had practically no imports or exports. In his judgment the proposal would be of very little benefit to the existing small settlement, and would not create any volume of new business worth mentioning. He recommended that the matter remain in abeyance. The committee decided that an estimate of the cost of strengthening the bridge should be obtained.

Mr. Hanna also gave evidence regarding the proposal to construct a railway from Eden to Bega. This had already been before the committee in 1892 and 1903. The original estimate, excluding compensation for land, was £516,000; this after an amended survey was reduced to £283,000. The Chief Railway Commissioner's report stated the cost at £475,536, excluding land compensation; the annual interest bill at £16,644, maintenance £6684, estimated revenue £7900, leaving a loss of £15,428. Three-fourths of the trade of the district was now dealt with through the port of Tathra, 11½ miles from Bega, by a good road, and the question was whether traders would prefer to pay a railway rate for 41 miles or the road rate. A comparison pointed to the railway's share of the business being only low-grade traffic. The steamers would compete in the same way as with the existing South Coast line. The line would not materially assist development of the country, the good land having been occupied for years. The three seaports of Tathra, Merimbula, and Eden were within 23 miles by water, and fully served the districts. The revenue estimate was a liberal one, based moreover on the assumption that Tathra and Merimbula would not compete with the railway. At most the latter would about pay working expenses, leaving the interest charge on half a million of money unprovided. He could not recommend the proposal.

EDEN-BEGA RAILWAY.

LEAGUE TAKES NO CHANCES.

CANDELO, Wednesday.

An enthusiastic meeting of the local branch of the Eden-Bega Railway League was held under the presidency of Mr. W. J. Collins. A resolution was unanimously carried endorsing the resolution passed by the central league relative to a further agitation proposed for a line of railway from Eden to Bega. Much satisfaction was expressed over the fact that such a line had been referred to the Public Works Committee; but it was contended that the various branches of the league should continue the agitation.

ROYAL LIFE-SAVING SOCIETY.

REDUCTION OF SUBSIDY SERIOUS.

The annual general meeting of the Royal Life Saving Society was held at the Sports Club.

The report stated that while thankful for the Government's continued recognition, the executive sincerely regrets that among the reductions made in the amounts allotted to subsidised institutions, the sum placed on the Estimates for 1909 in aid of the Royal Life Saving Society has been reduced to £250. This would necessitate the curtailment of much of the work so successfully inaugurated among the country Public schools. In view of the above reduction, the loyal assistance of past and present members and of the public generally is now respectfully requested in furthering the society's good work.

The hon. treasurer's report showed that the income for the financial year was £734 11s 9d, including the Government grant of £500, and the expenditure £542 5s 9d, leaving a balance of £192 14s. Adding the value of the stock in hand, and deducting the only outstanding liability (that to head office), the balance to the credit of this centre was £204 2s 9d. This, however, has since been considerably reduced by the general expenses of the following months, when little revenue was receivable in the form of fees, etc. Due provision had also to be made to carry on till the end of 1908, and beyond that, as there was then no guarantee of a renewal of the Government subsidy, which has now been reduced by one-half. This meant a serious difference to the funds of the centre, but the Government expected the society to be as self-supporting as possible, and to make up the difference from the public. Considering that for over 12 years the society carried on its important educational work for the benefit of the people and their public institutions practically free of charge to the State, the executive now relied on the generosity of the citizens to enable the society to maintain its present efficiency.

Colonel Roth, D.S.O., president of the New South Wales Head Centre, occupied the chair, and moved the adoption of the annual report and balance-sheet. The chairman referred to the introduction of the Schafer method, and to the care which the professor took by experiments before he placed the method before the public. Reference was also made to the excellent organising work done by Mr. Williams throughout the country, and to the constant labours of Mr. Hendry at the central office.

The motion was seconded by Mr. L. D. Phillips, a former hon. secretary, who referred to the increasing popularity of life-saving demonstrations and of back and breast stroke swimming—so essential in life saving.

Mr. C. L. Daly, of the Coogee Surf Brigade, supported the motion, which was carried.

NOISES OF THE NIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Will you voice a complaint from us unfortunate fellows who have to sleep—or I should say try to—on board the hundreds of vessels at the wharfs round our lovely harbour. I am on board a coastal steamer, and on going to my bunk after a hard day's work to have a peaceful sleep, I am kept awake by the unnecessary and incessant hooting of ferry steamers, some of the ferrymen keeping their whistles blowing for at least two minutes, as if on purpose to disturb sleeping inhabitants of our foreshores. All I ask is for some consideration for the weary workers to whom a few hours' undisturbed sleep means so much. I believe the Circular Quay ferries are considerate in this matter; the Pyrmont side I especially allude to.

I am, etc., ENGINEER.

Portraits in the current issue of the "Sydney Mail" are:—Sir Frederick Darley, who is about to resign the office of Chief Justice of New South Wales; Mr. Julius Knight as Marcus Superbus in the "Sign of the Cross"; the late Jamison F. Ashwood; John F. Ashwood.—Advt.

THE KING OF ALL PIANOS
IS
The Bechstein Piano

LISZT writes: "For twenty-eight years I have now used your Pianos, and they have maintained their superiority. Your instruments are perfect."

RUBINSTEIN writes: "At my Concerts I use Bechstein's Pianos almost exclusively. C. Bechstein has attained the utmost degree of perfection in the art of instrument making."

LESCHETIZKY writes: "The Bechstein Piano is of the same importance to the pianist as the Stradivarius is to the violinist."

MADAME CARRENO writes: "The Bechstein Pianos have reached such perfection that I do not know what to admire most—the beautiful, warm, poetical, and expressive tone, which is a source of never-ending joy to the player, and his greatest help to express all he feels, or the perfect mechanism and touch.

"In the Bechstein Pianos everything is so expressively beautiful that whoever knows them as well as I do will never cease admiring them, and be full of the deepest gratitude for the great joy that they are to every true artist."

We have a magnificent display of these Pianos and shall be pleased to show them to you.

CATALOGUES ARE FREE.

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And at . . . . Brisbane and Newcastle.

LIBERAL ORGANISATION.

WORK IN THE ELECTORATES.

The organising work of the Liberal and Reform Association has practically concluded for this year with the recent western tour of the organising secretary, Mr. Archdale Parkhill. The towns visited consist of Warren, Nevertire, Narromine, Trangie, Dubbo, Wellington, Condobolin, Parkes, Forbes, Orange, Blayney, and Bathurst, comprising parts of the Castlereagh, Macquarie, Orange, Bathurst, and Blayney electorates. The organising secretary has reported as follows:—

"In the Castlereagh electorate the feeling is general amongst Liberals that with a suitable candidate and a thorough resuscitation of the organisation in the various centres of the electorate the prospects of winning the seat are good. In Macquarie, Orange, and Bathurst the Liberal party are keen and anxious, and in most instances are doing all that can apparently be done to hold these seats, which were won at the last election. In Blayney, which was lost to the Liberal and Reform party at the last election by 50 votes, the local branches are asking for the services of an organiser early in the new year to thoroughly organise a number of the small and outlying centres, which in the past have given the Liberal candidate a minority vote through not being thoroughly roused. Already efforts are being made to arrange a conference in order to discuss matters regarding the selection of a candidate for the Macquarie Federal electorate against Mr. Carr, M.P.

"In New England the same feeling exists. The secretary of the Glen Innes branch is communicating with the secretaries of the other branches throughout the electorate, and arranging for a conference on some date early in the new year. The Armidale branch, through its secretary, Mr. A. Purkiss, has recently gone through their scrutineers' rolls of the last State election with the view of giving special attention to those who did not then record their votes. The names of those who have removed or are ineligible have also been noted, and every effort is being made to see that the Liberal supporters are enrolled. In the Cook Federal electorate steps have been taken by preliminary meetings called by Mr. A. Hewish and Mr. J. Kitchen, the respective secretaries of the Liberal and Reform branches of Camperdown and Newtown, to form an electoral council consisting of delegates from each branch in the electorate. The work of this electoral council is to organise the electorate in divisions, so that there may be no overlapping. In the State electorates in the western suburbs, which are mostly included in the Parkes Federal electorate, the Ashfield branch of the association is one of the most influential and strong branches in the State, and is quietly and actively at work looking after the organisation of the various centres in its neighbourhood.

"The constitution of the association is also undergoing revision. The constitution committee has now the draft almost ready for submission to the annual meeting."

NOWRA WATER SUPPLY.

NOWRA, Wednesday.

The Nowra Municipal Council has received a satisfactory report on an inspection recently made by Mr. Burrows, an officer of the Public Works Department, of the site selected at Bangallee Creek for the proposed storage dam for the Nowra water supply. It was resolved that a referendum vote of the ratepayers on the question be taken next month.

Speaking at a supper which marked the close of the council meetings for the year, Mr. Mark Morton, M.L.A., and Mr. Edwin Seccombe, ex-Mayors, urged the council to seriously consider the advisability of extending the water supply to Terara, Numba, and other places between the town and the seaboard. Mr. Seccombe said he felt assured that the district would not be as prosperous as it should until the council augmented the water supply to an extent that would permit of its use in agriculture. There was no richer soil in the world than that of the Shoalhaven flats, but there could be no proper production without a regular water supply. Mr. Morton said the question of extending the water supply was one the council would have to take up at once, and he suggested that the Nowra and South Shoalhaven municipalities should amalgamate with that one object. It would mean much to this district, as, owing to the decreased rainfall of late years, caused, he believed, through the cutting out of timber, the people were looking to a permanent water supply as the only means for their salvation as a producing district.

Cuts and bruises are healed promptly by Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Keep it on hand.—Advt.

The illustrated article on Art and Artists in Sydney is concluded in the current issue of the "Sydney Mail."—Advt.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

PERSONNEL FOR 1909.

The City Council committees for 1909 have been elected as follow:—

Electric Lighting.—Aldermen Cocks, Hughes, Jones, Lees, A. M'Elhone, W. P. M'Elhone, Meagher, Mullins, O'Connor, Stephen, Thompson, Ward.

Works.—Aldermen English, Fitzgerald, Henson, Jones, A. Kelly, Lawrence, A. M'Elhone, W. P. M'Elhone, Meagher, O'Connor, O'Sullivan, Thompson.

Health and Bylaws.—Aldermen Barlow, English, Fitzgerald, Harris, Jones, A. Kelly, Lawrence, Lees, A. M'Elhone, Meagher, Mullins, O'Connor.

Finance.—Aldermen Clarke, Cocks, Harris, Hughes, Jones, A. Kelly, Lees, W. P. M'Elhone, Meagher, Mullins, O'Sullivan, Stephen.

The Lord Mayor elect (Alderman Taylor) will be ex officio a member of all the committees.

OVERLAPPING CHARITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—In to-day's issue an article under above heading passes severe stricture upon the Charity Organisation Society for the fact that one of the society's tickets for grocery was found upon a woman who had also tickets for relief from the Salvation Army, City Mission, a recommendation from a minister to the Benevolent Asylum, and expectations from St. Benedict's R.C. Church. Allow me to point out that the primary object of the C.O.S. is to investigate and direct private philanthropy to deserving people who have applied to subscribers by begging letter. Upon the faith of the society's report relief is generally sent direct by the donor. In all ordinary cases when grocery orders are given by the society the case is investigated; except when the applicant is sent by recommendation by a subscriber or a minister of religion, relief is given at sight as long as the answers are satisfactory as to the abode and family particulars of the person applying.

At Christmas time no doubt overlapping exists, for it is impossible to investigate every case when all relieving agencies are rushed. This unsystematic alms-giving happens every Christmas, and the more channels there are for dispensing charity, more overlapping must be the result.

This has been greatly increased by the religious bodies adding eleemosynary work as an adjunct to their spiritual ministration. With these bodies there is no co-operation, either amongst themselves or with the legitimate benevolent societies. There is no check upon those they assist beyond asking the recipient whether he or she is obtaining relief elsewhere.

It is only natural the unprincipled will deny receiving help from another source. The religious bodies are too credulous, and take it for granted that the applicants are genuine, as long as he or she attends their meetings at mission hall or church.

The only way to check this systematic annual fraud is for each society to appoint a delegate and meet three days before Christmas at one of the permanent societies' offices and be provided with a list of names and the address of those they are going to help. It will be then seen if the same name appears on two lists. In your article you mention that the remedy for this overlapping is a central organisation. This was attempted by the society many years ago; lists were sent to the suburban societies asking if they would fill them up and return them to the office to be checked. Many at first responded, then gradually left off. Then the Hon. G. H. Reid started the Metropolitan Charities' Association, which cost the Government £1100. It lingered on for two years and died a natural death. You also point out that elsewhere charity organisation aims at and achieves this co-ordination. From this I beg to differ, for by the reports I have from the Melbourne, Brisbane, and Adelaide societies they experience the same difficulty in getting the co-operation of the other benevolent societies in their midst. In conclusion I may say that during the year very little overbanking occurs with the Charity Organisation Society; and the letters sent for investigation by the Governor-General, the State Governor, and other wealthy, benevolent people testify to the utility of the society's work in preventing imposition and directing charity to the deserving. I am, etc.,

Dec. 23. J. SIDNEY.

When the proper dose of Chamberlain's Tablets is taken, their action is so natural that one can hardly realise it is the effect of a medicine. Sold everywhere at 1s 6d.—Advt.

Illustrations appearing in this week's "Sydney Mail" are:—A record load of wool at Brewarrina. A handsome golf shield. Cook's River excursion. Senior Cadets' camp. Launch of the battleship Collingwood. In memory of departed oysters. Central Hotel, Armidale, where the recent murder took place.—Advt.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

The following results of examinations have been posted:—

FACULTY OF ARTS.

Economics and Commerce I.—Passed with distinction: M. Alder, F. J. Docker. Passed with credit: J. P. Moore, F. B. Mulcahy, F. H. Roseby, F. J. Bourdonnere, H. L. McDonald, T. J. Herlihy, F. J. Gallagher, H. B. Perrignon, W. C. D. McBurney. Pass: Edith M. M. Swain, H. A. Eade, G. C. Hicks, E. C. Hancock, H. Hansford.

Economics and Commerce II.—Passed with high distinction: W. C. Ewing, H. E. Street. Passed with distinction: D. M. Glassford, A. E. Stevenson, E. L. Brown, A. D. P. Wylie. Passed with credit: W. R. Waddington, M. G. Webster, C. Campbell, — Oakes, A. D. Carson, T. Green, R. E. G. Goddard, J. B. Cane, W. C. Lacey, E. O. Walcot. Pass: C. H. Leiferman, J. J. O. Sutherland, F. J. Pigg, A. E. Robinson, J. G. Symonds, A. S. H. Sharp.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

First Degree Examination.—Passed: Katie Ardill, J. E. Bateman, B.Sc., A. Benjamin, K. F. C. Brennich, J. V. Church, A. H. Coleman, A. J. Collins, A. T. Dunlop, W. Evans, C. J. Fallon, B.A., L. M. Fisher, R. A. Fitzherbert, A. D. Forbes, M. J. Gallagher, R. V. Graham, H. H. J. Harris, R. C. Kennedy, H. S. McLelland, R. B. North, R. E. Nowland, M. F. O'Reilly, C. C. Ross, J. H. V. Scott, W. F. Simmons, G. W. Sinclair, B.A., L. G. Teece, T. W. Van Epen, H. H. Willis.

Third Degree Examination (deferred).—The following have passed:—A. C. Arnold, W. S. Brooks, T. H. Goddard, A. R. Haynes, A. W. Mebbs, Ethel C. Parnell, G. L. Tait, W. B. Thompson.

Final Degree Examination (M.B. and Ch.M.).—Honours at graduation: Class I., K. Smith, K. A. Golledge; class II., R. G. Waddy, H. H. Parkinson, E. W. Ferguson, H. Bullock, J. F. Fahy.

Pharmacy Students (Materia Medica).—Pass (alphabetical): L. T. Allsop, Alice T. Andrew, J. Andrew, A. C. Bell, J. J. Boyers, T. A. Browne, E. Brown, H. G. Clemisha, W. E. Cook, W. C. Costin, A. C. Dash, C. L. Earle, H. J. Falk, S. J. Farley, A. W. E. Gosbell, G. R. Gillies, C. S. Harris, W. H. M. Haselhurst, J. G. Holmes, G. Mallaby, P. Peoples, G. S. Reardon, E. A. Sinclair, A. W. Spence, F. Toohey, F. W. Watts, E. C. Webb, W. M. Winning, R. Whiting.

Chemistry, Introductory.—Pass (alphabetical): Alice T. Andrew, P. J. Bailey, A. C. Bell, H. S. Clarke, W. E. Cook, A. C. Dash, G. R. Gillies, W. M. Haselhurst, W. J. Maher, G. Mallaby, C. Newcombe, Emma L. A. Reye, A. W. Saunders, B. Simpson, M. Small, G. E. Souter, A. W. Spence, O. D. Ward, E. W. Watts.

Chemistry, Metals.—Pass (alphabetical): W. R. Allison, Alice T. Andrew, A. C. Bell, J. J. Boyers, T. A. Browne, P. Cambourn, W. E. Cook, W. C. Costin, A. C. Dash, G. R. Gillies, W. H. M. Haselhurst, J. G. Holmes, G. Mallaby, P. Peoples, R. R. Powell, O. J. Ritchie, A. W. Saunders, B. Simpson, G. E. Souter, A. W. Spence, L. A. Tanner, E. W. Watts, E. C. Webb.

Chemistry, Practical.—Pass (alphabetical): W. R. Allison, Alice T. Andrew, A. C. Bell, T. A. Browne, H. R. Burnett, P. Cambourn, A. L. Carpenter, W. E. Cook, A. C. Dash, C. L. Earle, G. R. Gillies, T. E. Green, J. H. Harris, W. H. M. Haselhurst, J. G. Holmes, W. J. Maher, G. Mallaby, C. Newcombe, J. Phillips, Emma L. A. Reye, A. W. Saunders, B. Simpson, N. Small, G. F. Souter, A. W. Spence, G. C. W. Stevens, S. Stevenson, O. D. Ward, E. W. Watts.

Senior Public Examination.

The Kambala Prize awarded for general proficiency at matriculation to a pupil of a private school for girls in New South Wales has been awarded to Miss Marie M. Hamilton, Presbyterian Ladies' College.

In the list of schools from which the successful candidates were prepared, the Public School, Newcastle, should be credited with four passes, and the Girls' High School, West Maitland, with two passes.

ENGINEDRIVERS' EXAMINATION.

The following have passed the examination for winding enginedrivers' certificates of competency:—J. Barrie, J. G. Black, E. J. Reavley, J. W. Roberts, J. Robertson, H. W. Edgecombe, J. A. Hoare, J. Barnett, E. Smith, T. H. Trevillian, J. F. Egan, C. H. Gillard, C. P. Gray, A. D. Russell, F. W. Herbert, W. J. Sewell, A. C. Stevens. Ordinary certificates: A. A. Chapman, W. Craig, H. Fraser, H. T. Hicks, W. Longley, D. M'Kay, T. W. M'Lean, G. W. Poole, A. D. Adam, W. Ellis-Sutherland, J. M. Findlay, T. E. Johnstone, M. R. M'Ewan, R. H. Scott, G. Woodman, A. Brownjohn, W. T. Buckley, H. G. Hartnett, R. Hutchison, W. E. M'Crohon, E. T. Madden, C. F. Madden, M. H. Creely, F. B. C. Bell, R. C. Burgess, J. H. Parkes, jun., T. S. Deane, W. A. Johnson, J. J. Thompson, W. J. Maurice, H. B. Miller, A. B. Price, Charlie Prosper, W. G. Smith, R. P. Tindall, H. R. Weeks, H. R. Williams, C. E. Matthews, R. F. Millynn, J. J. Seymour, J. G. Davis, H. J. Martin, P. J. Wild, W. Baulain, G. McIntosh, L. Uhrig, M. Costello, C. W. Green, A. M. Hickey.

MANY WEEKS OF AGONY

With Eczema on Arms and Legs.—Could Scarcely Sleep for Months.—Tried Many Treatments Without Results.—Could Not Work for 11 Weeks.—Completely Cured by Cuticura.

"My trouble began with irritation on the legs and right arm, which developed into eczema. In a few weeks' time I was in perfect agony. I was prevented from attending work for eleven weeks, and although I tried remedies suggested by my friends, they were all used without any effect, and two doctors failed to do any good. One day I decided to make another attempt to get rid of my complaint, and purchased a full set of Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment, and Cuticura Pills, and in ten days I found the irritation disappearing. I would not have believed it possible for any remedy to afford such comfort in so short a time. I was able to sleep at night—a thing which I had not been able to do for months—and in the course of another week there were unmistakable signs of the eczema being mastered. I persevered with Cuticura, and in six weeks, using two supplies, I was cured.—George Harrison, Poole-ter., near South Milford, Yorkshire, Eng., June 11, 1907."—Advt.

LAW NOTICES.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24.

DISTRICT COURT.

Before the Registrar, in No. 2 Court.—At 10.30 a.m.: The Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways v Conlon. At 10.45 a.m.: Thomas v Opit.

Note.—The offices of the Metropolitan District Court will be closed at 1 p.m. this day (Thursday) until 10 a.m. on Monday, the 28th inst.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

A GOLD-MINING CONCERN.

James Milne Curran and Donald Thomson were at the Central Summons Court proceeded against before Mr. Barnett, S.M., on an information laid by Maurice Michael Roche, alleging that defendants had conspired, by means of a false document, purporting to be a settlement of an Equity suit, commenced in the Supreme Court of New South Wales by the informant against Thomson and others, to cheat and defraud informant of an interest in certain shares in the Border Gold-mining Company, No Liability.

There was a further information by Maurice Michael Roche against the same defendants, charging them with, having conspired to obstruct and prevent the course of justice by means of a forged document purporting to be a settlement in the Supreme Court by the informant against Thomson and others.

Mr. W. M. Walker, instructed by Mr. W. H. Atkinson, appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. Windeyer (Messrs. Pigott and Stinson) for the defendants.

Maurice Michael Roche, the complainant, said he was a mining agent of Bega. Last year he had entered into partnership with Thomson and a man named Best in a mining venture at Delegate. An agreement was arrived at that Curran should float the concern into a company. About the end of last year Curran informed witness that he had put the concern into a company of about 400 shares. Curran said that he would protect witness, as his other partners appeared not to be well disposed towards him. The Border Gold-mining Company, No Liability, was then formed in pursuance with the agreement. Witness learned that 75 shares were to be issued to Thomson and Best, and he (witness) claimed a third of those shares. He saw Curran about the end of June in Sydney, and asked him where he (witness) came in. Curran referred him to the other two partners. Witness subsequently saw Thomson, to whom he spoke about the matter; but Thomson referred him to Curran. Witness then filed proceedings in the Equity Court.

At this stage certain documents were tendered by Mr. Walker, among them being some relating to the Equity Court proceedings, concerning a claim made by Roche for 25 shares, together with certain statements made at the proceedings by Thomson.

Witness, continuing, said that Curran had asked him about the end of August if he (witness) could not settle the Equity suit between him (witness) and Thomson; but he replied that he would not act without consulting his lawyer. Next day witness asked Curran to accompany him to his lawyer, but Curran refused. About August 29 witness saw Curran at the office of Mr. Jones, solicitor. Curran then suggested that witness should accept 10 shares as settlement of his claim against Thomson, but no finality was then arrived at. On the same day witness again saw Curran at the latter's residence, when he told Curran that he had some papers from his solicitor, and had asked Thomson to come and see him (Curran), but Thomson had declined to do so. Thomson, when spoken to, referred witness to Curran, saying that he had nothing to do with the matter. Curran, witness said, handed him certificates for 10 shares about August 29, to hold until certain documents were signed, but witness told him on that occasion he would not do so. Witness wanted Thomson's signature as well. On August 30 Thomson came to witness's apartments, and said that he was not going away until the Equity suit was settled, but on the railway station that evening witness saw Thomson, who said that the suit had been settled. Thomson said that he had a document in his pocket with witness's signature to a settlement in the Equity suit. Witness said, "If you have, it is a forgery." The train then left. Witness had never signed any such document. At that time Curran was on the platform. He had had a conversation with Curran prior to seeing Thomson, when the former told him that he had written a letter to witness making an appointment with him, so that witness could see Thomson, who was going in the train. Curran then left the station. On August 31 witness saw Curran, who asked him if he had signed the settlement between him (witness) and Thomson. Witness said that he had not. Curran then wanted to see witness at the solicitor's office, and had subsequently asked him repeatedly if he would sign the document in regard to the settlement. Witness had taken proceedings against Curran in the police court.

Cross-examined by Mr. Windeyer, witness stated that up to the time of the police court proceedings he had had every faith in Thomson's honesty. Witness thought that at the railway station Thomson believed every word that he spoke in regard of the document to be true. Until Thomson had failed to produce the document he had believed him. The first time that he had doubts about the document being forthcoming was at the police court proceedings.

The case was adjourned until Wednesday week.

XMAS AFTER-EFFECTS.

"Xmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer," and in its train other things less desirable. Xmas is a time of happiness, and, as an accompaniment, we most of us live right up to the old adage, "Eat, drink, and be merry," perhaps not wisely, but too well, and quite lose sight of the fact that our overworked stomachs and digestive organs will wreak their vengeance on us by an attack of indigestion. There are many so-called cures for this distressing malady, but there is only one which "gets there" every time. It is known as DR. SHELDON'S DIGESTIVE TABULES. They digest what you eat, and restore the stomach to its normal healthy condition. They are sold everywhere at 2s 6d per tin of 80 tabules, and are positively guaranteed to do all that is claimed for them, otherwise your money will be returned.—Advt.

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BIRTHS.

OLLE.—December 22, at Langmeil, Carlisle-street, Ashfield, the wife of Percival Durrant Olle—a daughter.

WYNDHAM.—December 2, 1908, the wife of Heathcote Wyndham, of a son. Binwan, Inverell.

MARRIAGES.

HAGARTY-GARDNER.—July 1, at St. Saviour's, Sydney, by Rev. C. Thomas, Oswald Herbert, son of Mrs. M. Hagarty, Petersham, to Lottie, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gardner, Dulwich Hill.

ROBINSON—TEASE.—July 28, 1908, at St. Lawrence's Church, by the Rev. Stanton Jones, Joseph (Jack) Robinson, third son of John Robinson, Esq., Liverpool, England, to Queenie Annie Tease, youngest daughter of Samuel Tease, Esq., of Auckland, New Zealand. New Zealand and Western Australian papers please copy.

SILVER WEDDINGS.

PEARCE—DANIEL.—December 22, 1883, at Christ Church, New Zealand, by Rev. Archdeacon Dudley, James, eldest son of the late N. Pearce, St. Austell, Cornwall, England, to Mary Annie Daniel, eldest daughter of the late William Daniel, Trenance Bridge, St. Austell, Cornwall, England. Present address: Pretoria, Burlington-road, Homebush.

DEATHS.

BAXTER.—December 23, at her residence, Breffin, Burwood-street, Burwood, Marion, beloved wife of John Baxter, aged 60 years. R.I.P.

CHAPMAN.—December 23, 1908, at her residence, 49 Kensington-road, Summer Hill, Anne Hale, relict of the late W. E. Chapman, and sister of J. W. Wilson, of Kempsey, aged 78 years. By request, no flowers.

CLARKE.—December 23, at her residence, Thomas-street, Petersham, Mrs. Bithiah Clarke, in her 82nd year.

FULTON.—December 22, at 63 Corona-avenue, Waverley, N.S.W., Charles Joseph, the dearly loved infant son of Thomas Benedict and Mary Margaret Fulton, aged 13 months.

GEE.—December 21, at 44 Leinster-street, Cecil William Gee, dearly loved grandson of Mrs. F. S. Gee, aged 5 months.
Ere sin could harm or sorrow fade,
Death came with friendly care;
The opening bud to Heaven conveyed,
And bade it blossom there.
Safe in the arms of Jesus.

GREENACRE.—At his residence, Strathmore, The Oaks, Picton, suddenly, George Greenacre, late of Dulwich Hill.

HENDERSON.—December 22, 1908, at the Sydney Hospital, Andrew, the dearly loved husband of Ethel May Henderson, of the Market Hotel, Market-street, city, aged 44 years.

LIPPMANN.—December 23, at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, William Webb Lippmann, eldest son of H. H. Lippmann, of Hawkesbury River, aged 19 years.

McCOY.—December 23, 1908, Clarence R. B., only son of Clarence W. and Stella McCoy, aged 1 year.

ROSE.—December 22, 1908, at his late residence, Surrey, Homebush Crescent, Homebush, Augustus (James) Rose (for many years in the Railway Dept.), aged 74 years. By request, no flowers.

IN MEMORIAM.

ABBOTT.—In loving memory of our dear son, Robert Neville Abbott, died December 24, 1907, aged 0 years and 9 months.

FOX.—In sad but loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Michael Fox, who departed this life December 24, 1907, aged 58 years, at 1 Botany-street, Waterloo. Inserted by his loving wife and daughters, Tilly, Kate, Ada, Minnie, and Jessie. "Though lost to sight, to memory dear."

FOX.—In sad but loving memory of our dear father, Michael Fox, who departed this life December 24, 1907, aged 58 years, at 1 Botany-street, Waterloo. Inserted by his loving sons, also daughters-in-law, Michael and Jessie, William and Mary, and grandchildren.

FOX.—In sad but loving memory of our dear father, Michael Fox, who departed this life December 24, 1907, aged 58 years, at 1 Botany-street, Waterloo. Inserted by his loving sons, Arthur, Albert, and Jack.

FOX.—In sad but loving memory of our dear father, Michael Fox, who departed this life December 24, 1907, aged 58 years, at 1 Botany-street, Waterloo. Inserted by his loving daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Burton, and grandchild.

GEORGE.—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Percy, who departed this life December 24, 1907, in his 19th year. Inserted by his loving parents, brother, and sisters. Sadly missed.

GEORGE.—A tribute of unfading love to the cherished memory of our dear brother, Percy George, who departed this life December 24, 1907, aged 18 years. Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Henry and Celia Downey. Most dearly loved, now sadly missed.

GRIFFIN.—In loving memory of my darling little Violet (Popsy), who passed from death into life December 24, 1906; also little Violet (Bubby), June 19, 1907. Peace, perfect peace. Inserted by her loving mother and brother, C. and A. D. Griffin.

In loving memory of our dear mother, who died at her residence, Termeil, near Milton, on December 24, 1906. Inserted by her sorrowing children, David, Dinah, Agnes, and Berenice.

PENFOLD.—In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, who departed this life December 24, 1907. Inserted by her loving children and grandchildren. At rest.

PRICE.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Mrs. Mary Price, who departed this life on December 24, 1895. Inserted by her loving son, Albert Price.

SLEAP, POLLY.—Died December 24, 1907. Gone, but not forgotten by Queenie or Tom.

SMITH.—In loving memory of my dear husband, John Smith, who departed this life December 24, 1906, aged 70. Inserted by his loving wife, Mary.

STANWICH.—In loving remembrance of my dear wife Ellen, who departed this life on December 20, 1906. Inserted by her loving husband, P. Stanwich.

RETURN THANKS.

SHANNON.—Mrs. ELIZABETH SHANNON and FAMILY, of 37 Stanmore-road, Stanmore, desire to express their sincere THANKS to the numerous friends, relatives, and neighbours for letters, cards, telegrams, and kind expressions of sympathy received by them in their late sad bereavement by the death of their dearly loved HUSBAND and FATHER; particularly to the Rev. Father Kelly, who attended him in his last illness, Rev. Father Barry, Rev. Father Lonergan, Rev. Father Benedict, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, the Sisters of Charity (St. Vincent's), the Nursing Sisters of Lewisham, Dr. Wade, and Dr. McClelland, for their kind attention.

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ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE.

"Professions, Trades, etc.," and "Positions Vacant" will be found on page 3.

STATIONS AND FARMS FOR SALE.

Advertisements under this heading will be found on page 4.

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ART AND ARTISTS IN SYDNEY: No. II.
INTERESTING REVIEW BY D. J. QUINN.
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DR. RUSSELL NOLAN will be ABSENT from his Rooms until JANUARY 15th.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The EVENING EDITION of the "Sydney Morning Herald" will not be published on CHRISTMAS DAY.

The Morning Edition will be sent to the Country on that day.

JOHN FAIRFAX and SONS.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1908.

UNREST IN INDIA.

Although it has been officially announced that the unrest in India is subsiding, bombs are still being thrown, and the signs of mischief remain unpleasantly prominent. This is quite in keeping with what we know of the general situation. A section of the community in India is frankly anarchist, and the promise of concessions so recently made does not in any wise meet its demands. What the believers in bombs ask is neither more nor less than the destruction or dismissal of the British Raj. Their cry is "India for the Indians." They declare that the people of India are in subjection in the worst sense of the term, and they claim to be fighting for freedom. It would be foolish to deny that this element is a dangerous one, or that the native races are likely to be moved by specious appeals to their imagination or cupidity. The Mutiny showed what was possible in the latter direction, and the religious movement known as the Arya Somaj has now undoubtedly to be reckoned with. Mrs. Flora Steel, writing on the subject recently, says that the two master passions of humanity, sex and religion, are at work beneath the Indian surface. The Hindu woman is a firm believer in her faith, and when she sees the man coming in defiled, as she thinks, by Western ways, she grows restless and discontented. Mrs. Steel insists that much of the sedition which is causing trouble "is branded with that unnecessary display of feeble violence which in its very essence is feminine." This may be so; and yet one cannot but feel that the material for a mighty conflagration lies too close at hand, and that a wave of religious excitement may sweep the millions of India off their feet. There seems little doubt that the people have been thinking a good deal about events in the Far East—the rise of Japan, and the humiliation of Russia. Moreover recent happenings in Turkey have added to the excitement, and sedition-mongers have found much to talk about and prophecy upon. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that Great Britain has made it possible for the people to listen and to think in terms of freedom, and the question is how far her tolerance is likely to go.

Perhaps the most reassuring factor in a difficult outlook is the loyalty of the Indian princes and the hearty co-operation with the authorities of natives in positions of influence. It may be absolutely certain, as Sir Henry Craik has admitted in his "Impressions of India," that there is "a vast mass of ignorant native feeling, which vaguely looks for complete release from the white man's rule, and which would be stirred by no other appeal, in which the memory of old days is working, and who think that destiny is somehow on their side." But it is also certain—and Sir Henry Craik in his shrewd, dispassionate review of the situation is specially worth reading in this connection—that the wires of the agitation are pulled from Bengal, and one realises how necessary it is that the central authority should assert itself uncompromisingly there. Only so will the best elements in India be able to dominate the worst. The natives who count are on the side of the Empire. They realise that the so-called freedom will bring in the worst horrors of conquest, and they do not hesitate to express that opinion. But if there is vacillation or weakness among the British, how can the loyalists be given heart or courage? One thing emerges. The application of liberal doctrines in India demands that if and when the peoples of India are ready for a larger share in the administration of their country, that share shall be conceded. This is the meaning of the Queen's message on her assumption of her title of Kaisar-i-Hind. This is the meaning of the King's message, drafted by Lord Morley, and read in Durbar a few weeks ago. This is the meaning of the new measures just announced by cable as applying to local administration in the Indian Empire. Whether the partition of Bengal is the provocation to unrest there which it has been represented to be an observer at this distance cannot say. That the license of the vernacular press and the existence of seditious and anarchical propaganda must be firmly checked is, however, indisputable. But beyond all these temporary ebullitions lies that vast problem of Imperial duty and power—in how far and at what time can the Indian peoples be invited to share further in the government of India.

THE FEDERAL OPPOSITION.

It will be well, in the controversy which has arisen between the Federal Attorney-General and the leader of the Opposition, to keep the attention of our readers to essential facts. Mr. Hughes, for reasons best known to himself, is attempting to raise false issues, and would have the electors believe that the policy and programme of the Socialist party and Mr. Deakin are identical. We can see that there may be good political strategy in this. The Government is so thoroughly discredited for its assumption of power that it is bound in self-defence to claim perfect consistency in taking over the work of its predecessors and in making no attempt to assert its own principles. But if Mr. Deakin and Mr. Fisher stand for the same things, why are they not united in the Cabinet? Why was the former ever given notice to quit? If there is some genuine difference of opinion, why should the see-saw of office be swung so comfortably from side to side? Was it to enable the emoluments of power to be equally divided? Or are we to assume that a genuine effort is being made to find common ground, and that directly there will be an announcement that the programme hammered together in so many socialistic conferences, and copper-fastened so carefully by the caucus, has been abandoned for some give-and-take arrangement with Mr. Deakin? The latter suggestion is difficult to accept in any shape or form. Labour conferences have declared against coalitions, and nobody knows better than Mr. Hughes the futility of proposing that the late Government and its pitiful minority should be given any quarter. But if it can be shown, or held, however sophistically, that the Deakin policy is really the socialist policy, and that the present Government is in power by right of its principles, there may be some hope of allaying public disgust. At any rate, a controversy may tend to divert attention. That the question of the right or claim of the Opposition to come together troubles Mr. Hughes for a moment, except as the consummation may eject him from "the tart shop," we decline to believe. He is too able a man to imagine that sensible people can be caught with such chaff.

The essential facts are such as we have already emphasised in the appeal which was made to the people at the last elections. What then engaged public attention was the socialistic platform. The principles laid down by the Labour conferences and crystallised for the campaign against capital have never been repudiated, and they were so clear that a majority of the electorates returned members in direct opposition to them. It is true that candidates like Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Watson himself as leader, slurred the main issue. Socialism was declared to be a harmless thing, which in some degree everybody believed in; and the extreme protection which Sir William Lyne, by the aid of complacent Labour freetraders, has fastened upon the unfortunate consumers of the Commonwealth, was forecast as certain to be a great blessing for the workers who are now carrying most of the burden. The policy which Mr. Hughes seeks to appropriate, and makes so much of, was never presented to the electors, so that it is idle for him to flog, as he does, at the details of defence, the merits of the Navigation Bill, and the promise of the "new protection." Mr. Cook's reply to the Attorney-General's first pronouncement is otherwise very much to the point. But we are still concerned with the prospects of a united Opposition. It matters not at all that Mr. Hughes claims Mr. Deakin as his guide, philosopher, and friend, and dares him to think of joining hands elsewhere. The essential fact is that the electors of the Commonwealth sent Mr. Deakin, Mr. Cook, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Irvine, and many other members into Parliament to oppose the people now in power; and at the next elections they will have to answer for their pledges. It will not be a question of compulsory service or of the "new protection," but whether they did the work for which they were sent to Melbourne. If the majority of members so elected wish to come together, there is absolutely nothing to prevent them; and if they are wise they will allow no personal jealousies or unnecessary quibbles about the details of anti-socialist policy to keep them apart.

REDUCED RAILWAY RATES.

The reduction in goods charges announced by the Chief Commissioner to come into force with the new year will be very welcome, and it has the additional merit of being thoroughly justifiable from every point of view. In spite of previous reductions, the railways made for the financial year ending in June last a profit of some three-quarters of a million sterling, and the returns are still so buoyant that they have shown an increase of some £42,000 for the first five or six months of the present year. When we remember that this result has been attained in the face of poor seasons and low prices of metals it is clear that the Commissioners may well have confidence in their revenues. They can now look forward to a still better time, and they do well to share it with their customers. It is impossible to say at a rough glance what the value of the reductions will prove to be. We do not know how the departmental estimate of £60,000 has been arrived at. It may be only a first approximation; but, at any rate, it seems clear that an appreciable relief will be afforded both to producers wishing to reach the metropolitan markets and to country distributers. The former reductions, which have gone so far to prove their wisdom, were more particularly designed to help the country to reach the town. There are some indications in the new schedule that an effort has been made to help the town reach the country. Help was needed, and deserved, at both ends. Within reasonable limits of safety the lower the railway charges are made the more successful will they be as business undertakings. But they do not exist primarily to make a profit. They are the chief factor in the development of primary industries, and therefore they are best serving their purpose when they are most accessible to the customer. The new charges have been framed, we are glad to see, with a special view of giving relief to long-distance freight traffic. As is pointed out elsewhere, this will be a special benefit to the country storekeeper, who has plenty of troubles to battle against, and is none the less very often one of the most useful men of his district. The reduction of the rate on coal again will be no slight boon. We have often pointed out what a tremendous handicap the cartage of fuel is, for instance, to the mining industry. A reduction of twenty per cent., or more, will be a substantial help, wherever the lines run—unfortunately, the mines to which they run are the exception rather than the rule. The regulations relating to the carriage of starving stock required the liberal revision they have now received. While all sources of discontent may not have disappeared, the Commissioners seem to have been making a fair attempt to share their prosperity with the public; and while this is no more than the duty of the one and the due of the other, the country districts will not be slow to voice their appreciation of the polite little attention they have received. What stands out most prominently is the splendid asset the railways constitute. That they will become more valuable every day as settlement proceeds is obvious, and that is the best argument for a bold policy of expansion. Light lines, cross-country lines, development lines, ought to be ever present to the men who have to frame the railway policy of this State.

AN ENVELOPING TRUST.

The cables tell us that Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan contemplates an international combination of quite a number of leading lines of manufacture with a view of "cornering" the world's great industries, and stifling competition. Mr. Morgan has already made himself famous by the creation of a shipping trust of huge dimensions. That the International Marine Company, as it is called, has not altogether been a success so far from the point of view of those who invested their money, need not be more than mentioned here. Even a billion-dollar trust, however, would be a small thing compared with one sufficiently capitalised to purchase a controlling interest in the steel rail, lumber, paper, leather, chemical, and tinplate trades of the world. The Steel Trust alone has a capital of £200,000,000, and its field of operations cover the United States only. If to this were added all the steel-rail businesses, or even the most important of them, at present carried on in Great Britain and Germany, many more millions would be required, without taking into account all those other industries mentioned in the cable. As far as some of these are concerned, there is no doubt that Americans have had for some time ideas of bringing about an international understanding. Judge Elbert H. Gary, of the finance committee of the United States Steel Corporation, whilst being entertained at the Reform Club, London, by the council of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, said that Americans were desirous of being more closely associated with other nations. Human nature, he told them, was about the same all the world over. Men everywhere were selfish, conceited, and suspicious. They were inclined to look through a glass that magnifies their own importance and rights, and minimises those of others. This being so, he urged that it behoved them to compete no longer, but to recognise the fact that by helping others they helped themselves, and that by injuring others they themselves were injured. He was careful to add, however—possibly with his tongue in his cheek—that he advocated nothing antagonistic to the laws or to the public welfare.

Ideas such as these, doubtless, have caused Mr. Morgan to arrive at a conception of a world-wide manufacturing combine. There is nothing inherently wrong in a combination of interests calculated to reduce the cost of production, as long as such combination does not use its power to the detriment of the public. But where there are trusts there is danger. This was fully recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament when it passed what has come to be known as anti-trust legislation devised to prevent the "dumping" of trust products into Australia to the detriment of local industries. In the United Kingdom there is no such legislation, the markets of that country being open to the freest competition. Whether the freetrade ideal is not modified to some extent by the growth of huge trusts, capable for an indefinite period of selling immense quantities of manufactured products at below cost, may require discussion. Lord Cromer, speaking on this subject recently, seemed to think that freetrade would be able to stand in spite of this latter-day development. It would not prevent the establishment of trusts, he admitted, but he thought it would certainly prevent the formation of trusts that could do public harm, and it would act as a check in preventing them charging exorbitant prices to the community in general. It is to be hoped that this is so. But if the manufacturers of freetrade England itself once allow themselves to be swallowed up by the monopolists, wherein then lies the public safety? We feel sure that the people neither of the United Kingdom nor of the United States would allow themselves for long to be crushed under the heels of oppressive combines, no matter how powerful these might become. At the present moment, indeed, the Standard Oil Corporation—the father of all trusts—is defending itself in New York in a suit brought by the State to dissolve it as being detrimental to the public interest.

CHRISTMAS LUXURIES.

The Emperor Antoninus advises us to throw away the cucumber if it is bitter, and to avoid the Christmas turkey if it is too dear. Many a frugal housewife will be wishing just now that some Stoic philosopher would spread his culture to the kitchen, for it seems that holiday commodities are to be even more expensive than usual. Poultry, we learn, has risen with too great alacrity to the occasion. The problem of feeding a big metropolis has always many elements of mystery, and much more so when the whole population wishes to be dining off the same conventional bird or beast. "What is one among so many?" cried a prehistoric wife to a paleolithic husband who is shown holding a scraggy aviform outline against the wintry snows, and we seem threatened with a similar scarcity of suburban poultry. The trouble here is shortness of supplies. Among the many discouraging complexities of civilisation must be counted the disappearance of the domestic fowlyard. Properly considered, the fowl, in which generic epithet the turkey is included, must be regarded as a member of the family circle. He is there at once to eat and to be eaten. Unfortunately, he has lost his footing in the home and become a manufactured product with a small margin of profit and often a still smaller margin of meat. The incubator, which has usurped the place of the parent in the farmyard, counts the cost of production, and the result is that a spirit of hard commercialism is imported into what used to be the least economic of occupations. Those of us who, at the prices, fail to reach the social distinction of a gobbler, or even a goose, will have further cause for anxiety in the matter of "the ham." This is one of the most cherished of Christmas institutions; but here again there is a dearth of supplies. The cheerful optimist will assure us that this is because, after a year of all-round prosperity, too many of us are in a position to enter the ham market. There is some consolation if this is the explanation; but we fancy there is as a rule very little relation between hams and income.

Reformers arise to put so many things to rights that it is surprising that no society has ever arisen for the suppression of the Christmas dinner. How eloquently the earnest speaker might plead against plum-pudding, adducing arguments at once gastronomic and geographical. What economic and digestive fallacies might be pointed out which the wisest of us forbear to mention in the midst of the abnormal activity of the culinary artists! Yet nothing of the kind is attempted, and those of us who have learned the art of being young are little troubled by either preparations or prices. It is indeed perhaps one of the most remarkable tributes to the solid prosperity of Australia to note with what gay insouciance the throng of shoppers lays in its stores of things good to eat or good to look upon. To-night will once again be Christmas Eve, and once again we shall light-heartedly sally forth in our thousands, and return with countless trifling burdens. Life and the seasons conspire to rob us of those bitter contrasts that accentuate the squalor and splendour, the starvation and satiety, of older lands; but only the too selfish artist in emotions will regret the loss. If the Christmas turkey eludes some of us, and proves an illusion to others, we shall console ourselves, as we always do, in a hundred ways. With an enlightened altruism we shall devote ourselves to doing good to purveyors of Christmas cheer in all its varieties, material and otherwise—a perhaps novel point of view which may supply a philosophic sauce to the Christmas goose if we are lucky enough to possess one.

Customs Valuations.—Referring to-day to the cabled news that there has been a systematic undervaluing discovered in America (telegraphed our Melbourne correspondent last night), the Minister for Customs (Mr. Tudor) said that he had no reason to believe that Australia was suffering in the same way. Officers were instructed to be specially alert in taking suspicious invoices to head-quarters. It had been suggested in the department that an international customs convention might be held with a view of taking uniform action to prevent the undervaluation of goods. One country could arrange to protect the interests of the other. Personally, he thought the idea a good one, and was considering whether the proposal for a convention should be formally made. The United States already had a system under which copies of invoices were lodged by the exporter with the American Consul at the country of export, but that did not appear to have checked the undervaluations.

Shop Closings.—It is officially explained that shops which closed yesterday at 1 p.m., and which are to observe Christmas Day as a whole holiday, can, if desired, remain open till 10 o'clock to-night, and till 10 o'clock on Boxing Night. In respect to next week those shops which are to observe New Year's Day as a whole holiday may remain open till 6 o'clock on Wednesday, 30th inst. (or in the case of hairdressers till 7.30 p.m.), and till 10 o'clock on the night of Saturday, January 2. Those shops which are usually closed on Saturday afternoons may remain open till 10 p.m. on Thursday, 31st inst., and till 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 2, provided that New Year's Day is observed as a whole holiday.

Bridge or Tunnel.—The all-important question in connection with the future extension of traffic in the metropolitan area is whether North Shore is to be linked with the city by bridge or tunnel. The commission which has been making exhaustive inquiry into this matter has not yet been able to agree upon a recommendation. The chairman says information has yet to be obtained from the Public Works Department in the way of estimates. Plans are also being awaited. It is proposed to give the whole of the evidence very careful consideration before concluding the report. The next meeting has been fixed for January 4.

The Brisbane Science Congress.—The Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science will begin its 1909 session at Brisbane on January 11. The gathering promises to be of special importance, partly because of the interest the Government is taking in it, since it is the beginning of the Queensland jubilee functions, the Northern State having separated from New South Wales in 1859. The Queensland membership amounts so far to about 300, while those belonging to New South Wales are 76 in addition, and new names are being enrolled almost every day. The papers to be read already amount to several hundreds. There will be popular lectures, while the social functions will be alike varied and on a large scale. Since the last announcement the Archbishop of Brisbane has intimated his intention of giving a garden party, while there will be free trains to Toowoomba and Warwick. There is also a free train to Gympie, and inspections to mines have been arranged for. There are numerous other excursions, one, extending to the Great Barrier Reef, being of especial interest to geologists and botanists. Mr. J. H. Maiden, the acting permanent secretary at the Royal Society's House, Elizabeth-street, is enrolling members, and will supply information in regard to the travelling and other privileges of members.

Improvement Lease Litigation.—Three reserved judgments were delivered by the Land Appeal Court yesterday on the question whether certain improvement leases forfeited as a result of the inquiry held by Mr. Justice Owen a couple of years ago could pass into settlement lease tenures. Three holders of such lands, who had held the leases, and who after their forfeiture had automatically held them under preferential occupation license, made objection after the lands had been thrown open for settlement lease that they were still entitled to possession because certain notices had not been given, as required by the Lands Act. The land boards before which the objections were taken held that the lands were properly available at the dates of application, the notices having been properly given; and the matter was then carried to the Land Appeal Court. This Court decided that on the matter of notice the appellants were out of court, but on another ground—that the lands were not then available—there was a division of opinion, the President and Mr. Commissioner Brandis being of opinion that, for reasons stated at length in the judgment, the lands were then available, and Mr. Commissioner Houston taking a contrary view. The whole matter rested on the construction placed upon the Improvement Leases Cancellation Act and its relation to the general land laws of the country.

Development of the Six Hatters.—The famous six hatters have appeared in so many guises, and their story has been told in so many ways, that in all probability future generations will come to regard them as the Sick Satyrs, and classify them among the solar myths. The latest version of the Custom's action is told by Mr. George Crowley in the "Freeman's Journal." Mr. Crowley, during a trip to London, was discussing Australia with a typical Cockney 'bus-driver, and had just informed him of its area. The driver seemed impressed. "Ostralia must be a great place," he said. "But what did yer want to try and drown them poor 'atters for?" Mr. Crowley assured him that Australia had done nothing of the kind. "Oh, yes, yer did, beggin' yer pardon, guv'nor," persisted the 'busman. "I seen a picture of it in an Ostralian paper. The 'atters wanted to land, and you wouldn't let 'em, and then they jumped overboard and tried to swim, and yer shoved 'em off with long poles and nearly drowned 'em." "You perhaps have some faint recollection of seeing a cartoon in one of Sydney's comic papers ridiculing the nature of the Opposition offered to the Government's procedure in respect of the landing of the shipwrecked Petriana foreigners at about the time of the famous episode of the hatters," comments Mr. Crowley, "and you endeavour to explain to the driver that the picture he takes so serious was 'meant sarkastic,' but you only half succeed."

The Firecart for Bush Outbreaks.—The firecart is becoming increasingly popular as a means of combating bush fires, and it has done good service at several conflagrations. There is a very high, thick sward of grass just now in the Wagga district, and several landholders are considering the question of having one or more of these carts, to be purchased on the co-operative principle. A public meeting of persons who may be affected by such fires has been called, and the whole question of providing these appliances is then to be considered. In the meantime several promises of money have been received towards the purchase of one cart.

Scottish Fishermen's Grit.—When the news reached Sydney that the steamer chartered by the Scottish fishermen in South Australia had been wrecked, the Amateur Fishermen's Association of New South Wales conveyed a resolution of sympathy to them in their misfortune. The reply to the written message has just been received by the A.F.A. here, and it shows that the Scottish fishermen have not only the spirit to rise superior to misfortune, but can appreciate in humorous terms the kindly thought for them on this side of Australia. Mr. W. J. Newlands has written from Norwood (South Australia) to the hon. secretaries of the association in the following terms:—"We beg to thank you most heartily for your kindly feelings towards us, and for your kind motion of sympathy, and we appreciate it the more, as we know it is heartfelt and sincere. We were, unfortunately, not insured, but you can rest assured we shall not be deterred by this from pursuing our work. It is characteristic of our race to look upon obstacles as things to be overcome, and we console ourselves with the fact that we shall find our money where we lost it, or in fisherman's parlance, 'They're waggin' their tails the noo; that'll pey for this.' Mr. Eaglesham and I and our crew desire you to convey our heartiest thanks and the compliments of the season to the A.F.A., and hope some day to have a hearty 'grip o' the han'' with every member."

South-western Courts.—A proclamation has been published in the Government "Gazette" notifying an alteration in the time of holding the courts of Quarter Sessions and District Courts respectively at Hillston, Narrandera, and Cootamundra, in the south-western district. These courts, which are to be presided over by Judge Rogers, will commence at Hillston on March 19; at Narrandera on March 24 and 25; at Cootamundra on March 29 and 30; and at Hillston again on August 27.

A Southerly Blow.—The red light was exhibited from the tower of the General Post Office for the second time last night as a signal that a southerly gale had reached Jervis Bay. The change was first felt in the city at 7.50 p.m., and the wind increased in force until at 8.40 p.m. a velocity of 47.6 miles an hour was recorded. The average rate maintained between 8 and 9 p.m. was 30 miles an hour. Later in the night the wind almost died away. Fine weather conditions ruled yesterday generally, but a heavy thunderstorm passed over Woolgoolga at 8 p.m.

Mr. T. H. Houghton forwards a cutting from the Adelaide "Advertiser," which, he explains, is calculated to grossly mislead anyone whose eye catches only the headline, "Plague in Sydney."

We have received from the N.S.W. Fresh Food and Ice Co., Ltd., a copy of its pamphlet, "Fish Recipes."

We have received excellent calendars for 1909 from "Henderson's" (Park-street), the Atlas Assurance Company, and the Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd.

The Public Service Board have decided to hold annually, in the month of May, the examinations for admission to the clerical and professional divisions of the Public Service as junior clerks and cadet draftsmen.

THE EVER-RESTLESS WHEELERS.

FURTHER TROUBLE PREDICTED.

WOLLONGONG, Wednesday.

The wheelers employed at the North Bulli colliery are working out their notices, which were given in consequence of one of their number having received 14 days' notice from the under-manager (Mr. F. Cater). The wheelers do not appear to be unanimous upon the question, as some of them failed to give in their notices, and others that have given them in have withdrawn them. A deputation of union officials waited upon the manager on Monday last to try to effect a settlement of the difficulty, but nothing definite was arrived at. There is still a chance of a stoppage taking place when the wheelers' notices expire. Numerous claims are being made, upon which the miners' lodge officials and the colliery managers have failed to agree. They are being sent on to the Board of Conciliation for settlement.

NAMOI RIVER DROWNING.

BODY IDENTIFIED.

NARRABRI, Wednesday.

The body recovered from the Namoi River yesterday has been identified as that of Jas. May, who had been employed cutting timber three miles from the town. Some of his clothes, with money in the pockets, were found by the police about half a mile higher up the river opposite the deceased's camp, at a spot on the river where the water was comparatively shallow. There was property of considerable value in the camp, including a parcel of opal specimens. Deceased had been indisposed lately, and was last seen alive on Saturday night.

The inquest was postponed for one week.

TO-DAY.

Christmas Carols: Mosman Bay, 8.30.
State Military Band: Hyde Park, 8.
Presentation, Mr. L. Phillip: Paling's, 3.
Her Majesty's: "The Merry Widow," 2 and 7.45.
Theatre Royal: "The Sign of the Cross," 2 and 8.
Tivoli Theatre, Vaudeville, 2.30 and 7.30.
Palace Theatre: "Struck Oil," 2 and 8.
National Amphitheatre: Vaudeville, 2.30 and 7.50.
Lyceum Hall: Spencer's Theatrescope, 2.30 and 7.50.
Zoological Gardens, 10.
Victoria Hall: American Theatrescope, 2.30 and 8.
Bijou Theatre: Moving Pictures Palace, 2.30 and 8.
Glaciarium: West's Pictures, 2.30 and 8.
Exhibition Building: Moving Pictures, 8.
Figure 8: Coogee, 3.
Skating: Bondi Skating Rink.
Wonderland City: Bondi, 3.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Ashton, Hon. Minister, who is attending to duties in the Attorney-General's Department during the absence of Mr. Wade, is still residing at Wentworth Falls. He travels to and from the Blue Mountains almost daily. His health has much improved.

Mr. Waddell, the State Treasurer, left Sydney on Tuesday, on a visit to the southern district. He is expected back to-day.

Mr. C. W. Oakes, Hon. Minister, is discharging the duties of Minister for Works during the absence of Mr. Lee at Port Macquarie for a week or so.

Amongst the seasonable postcards that have recently reached this city are four received by the family of Mr. William Houston, one of the members of the Land Appeal Court, from Mr. R. Bruce Wood, notary public, of Harris County, Texas. One of the cards gives a fine coloured picture of General Sam Houston, the fearless western fighter, who, in 1836, with a handful of men, won the battle of San Jacinto, and freed Texas from the Mexican yoke. General Houston was the great-uncle of Mr. William Houston, and great-grand-uncle of Messrs. Ralph and J. W. H. Houston, solicitors, of this city.

Madame Ada Crossley, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Percy Grainger, and the other artists of Mr. J. C. Williamson's concert party, will arrive by the Melbourne express this morning. They will take part in the Christmas concert in the Town Hall to-morrow night, and will leave for their New Zealand tour by the Warrimoo.

Dr. M'Call, M.H.A., has accepted the position of Agent-General of Tasmania, and will take up his duties at the beginning of April. He will leave for London in the middle of February. Dr. M'Call was born at Devonport, Tasmania, in 1860, and took his degree at Glasgow University. Returning to Tasmania, he practised on the West Coast, and subsequently took up practice at Ulverstone. He succeeded Sir Edward Braddon in the State Parliament as representative for West Devon, and was Chief Secretary in the Nicholls-Propsting Ministry in 1903. When that Government was defeated he went with its supporters in opposition, and has sat on the Opposition benches ever since.

Mr. E. A. Harris, F.C.P.A., of the firm of E. A. Harris and Small, was on Tuesday evening made a presentation by Mr. C. V. Witt, on behalf of the members and students of the 1908 accountancy class, whom he has been coaching for the recent final examination for public accountants.

Superintendent Sherwood, who has charge of the Metropolitan Division of Police, has been promoted from second-class to first-class rank. Third-class Superintendents Alexander Johnston, of Deniliquin, and Ernest Charles Day, of the Police Depot and the Eastern District, have been promoted to be second-class superintendents, with increase of pay; and Senior Detective William Charles Jones is to be acting sub-inspector of detectives.

Mr. Hugh M'Dicken, who has just died, at the age of 78, at his residence, Surry Hills, was an old resident of the State. Brought up to the trade of a printer, Mr. M'Dicken became proprietor of the "Newcastle Chronicle" some years after landing in New South Wales. Deceased was stricken with blindness in his later years. Alderman M'Dicken, of Drummoyne, is one of his sons.

At a special meeting of the Yorkshire Society of New South Wales on Tuesday evening, Mr. W. Swann, of Elizabeth Farm House, Granville, was elected president for the remainder of the society's year.

A presentation was made last night to Mr. Albery Dickson, manager of Mr. Joe Gardiner's railway boot store. In asking Mr. Dickson's acceptance of the gift, the employees mentioned the very cordial relationship existing between the management and themselves.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

INLAND MAILS.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The cost of inland mails for the current year, according to the returns, is £14,169 more than last year. An extra £6236 is incurred in New South Wales, and £4786 in Victoria.

ANALYST'S DEPARTMENT.

The extension of the work of the Federal analyst has necessitated the appointment of three junior assistants. Applications for the positions are invited by the Public Service Commissioner.

HOME MADE V. IMPORTED.

The Sirocco fan occupied over an hour in debate in the House of Representatives just before the session closed, the Government being threatened by one of its allies on account of some of the machines to be installed in the Melbourne Post Office. The member urged that local makers should be given a chance to tender with fans of their own make. Tenders were opened, and a local maker's was found to be 34 per cent. higher than that of the lowest, namely £1076.

FIRE IN MELBOURNE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE PARTY.

ASCENDS BURNING BUILDING.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

A serious fire broke out at 160-162 Flinders-lane, in the premises occupied by Messrs. Thomson, Davies, and Co. The top floor of the building is sub-let to Messrs. Maurice Artand and Co., and it was here that the outbreak occurred. Although the destruction by fire was not great, the damage by water was very extensive on the lower floors, and a certain amount of destruction was caused in the next building, occupied by Messrs. Alfred Bowley and Co., clothing manufacturers.

The damage is estimated at over £3000.

While the fire was in progress a motor car arrived from Government House. Lord and Lady Dudley, accompanied by Lord Richard Nevill, Captain A. Hore-Ruthven, Mrs. A. Hore-Ruthven, and Mrs. P. Hore-Ruthven, emerged from the car, and were conducted by the deputy chief officer, Mr. Wilkins, through the smoke to the top floor of the burning building. The ladies came down with stains of charcoal on their dresses and with their shoes ruined by water. But they expressed themselves delighted with their experience, and were full of admiration for the manner in which the brigade had put out the fire.

PECULIAR ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING

MOREE, Wednesday.

Norman Tuckwell, formerly belonging to a company of buckjumpers, shot himself in the right side of the face last night at the Criterion Hotel. He also shot off one finger. He is said to have been under the influence of drink. Two shots were fired. Tuckwell was in the room by himself. After the shooting Tuckwell ran to the street shouting "Police!" and "Murder!" Senior-constable Scannell sent for the Government medical officer, Dr. Magill, and Tuckwell was taken to the hospital. Five undischarged cartridges were found in Tuckwell's clothes.

WOMAN'S HAIR BURNT OFF.

FIRE AT GUILDFORD.

A fire broke out on Monday afternoon at a two-roomed weatherboard cottage in Boundary-road, Guildford, about two miles from Granville, owned and occupied by Mr. M'Guire. No one was at home at the time, and the cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Mrs. M'Guire was in the next door neighbour's house at the time of the outbreak, and when she became aware of it the fire had obtained a good hold. With the assistance of neighbours a few articles were rescued from the burning building, but the bulk of the contents were destroyed.

In the work of saving property from the flames Mrs. M'Guire had the whole of her hair burnt off, and received injuries to her face. Neither the cottage nor contents was insured.

"Blue Mountain" contends that is should be imperative on all officers in charge of stations to convey passengers by goods trains where is can be shown that passenger trains will not be available for a day or two.

The police report that the man who fell overboard at the Circular Quay on Tuesday night was a passenger by the steamer Kareela. He was picked up by a boat launched from the Manly steamer Kuring-gai.

FEDERAL OUTLOOK.

COALITION OF PARTIES.

MR. HUGHES REPLIES TO MR. COOK.

Mr. Hughes, Federal Attorney-General, yesterday referred to the remarks made by Mr. Joseph Cook, leader of the Federal Opposition, on the subject of a coalition between the various parties outside the Labour party. Mr. Hughes said:—

"It has been widely stated that matters are so far in train for a coalition between the various parties of the House outside the Labour party that nothing remains to be done but to settle the question of leadership. Because of that, I ventured to point out—and I think I was justified in so doing—that, after all, there were some other things to be considered besides the mere question of leadership, and I showed just what some of those things were. It would appear that I have been pouring hot water on an ant heap, for there seems much to do in consequence of my quite-innocent remarks. To save space, I propose to deal with the criticism of my remarks made by Mr. Cook, leader of the Opposition.

"Mr. Cook says that if a combination does take place it will not be by the method of coalition, but by fusion. He says: 'I make Mr. Hughes a cordial present of the ever-greater difficulties of reconciliation which this involves.' Some interested parties do not recognise any difficulties, but Mr. Cook frankly admits that they exist, and are considerable. He appears, however, to have some original ideas as to what constitutes a coalition, for he declares that the Kidston-Philp combination is a fusion. It may be that this is so. I do not propose to argue about words, but about things.

"I said that there were fundamental differences existing between the other parties in the House, and that only by mutual concessions, or by a complete sacrifice of principle on the part of one or other of those parties, could united action be effected. Now, if Mr. Cook contemplates a fusion of parties by the simple and natural process of going bodily over to Mr. Deakin, and being absorbed by him, surely the Labour party have absolutely no reason to complain. It is a matter which concerns Mr. Cook and the Opposition—and the electors—and not us at all. It would be an amazing volte-face, and the electors would surely want to know something about it; but I do not see that the Labour party could legitimately complain of their belated conversion to those principles to which the Labour party is committed, and which the Opposition has hitherto vehemently denounced. No more emphatic endorsement of our support of the Deakin party could well be conceived than that its policy should be attractive enough to induce all other sections in the House to support it. As I said on Tuesday, there would, so far as these matters were concerned, be only one party in the House. On the Navigation Bill there is no serious difference of opinion between the Deakin party and ourselves. As far as the new protection is concerned, no doubt, the memorandum laid on the table by Mr. Deakin left something to be desired, but in essentials we are pledged to it. That is to say, we are pledged to such legislation in those industries covered by the tariff as will secure a fair and reasonable wage for those employed therein. To that principle—I speak not at all of details—upon which men can hardly be expected to see eye to eye—we are all committed.

"With regard to defence, about which Mr. Cook is pleased to be a little facetious, there, too, the Deakin party and the Labour party have both now committed themselves to a system of compulsory training for home defence. It may be that some of Mr. Deakin's friends do not approve it; it may that some of the members of the Labour party do not like it. I was not dealing with individual cases—I was dealing with the position of parties—and I was not dealing with the details of the measure, but with the broad principle of compulsory training underlying it. Upon that, I say again that the Labour party and the Deakin party are practically in agreement.

"Mr. Cook has quoted Senator Russell as being an opponent of that system; but that is not to the point. The point is this: That the Labour party, if it remains in office and deals with defence, will have to bring in a measure which embodies this principle of compulsory adult training. And any Government of which Mr. Deakin is a member—and I apprehend any Government which he supports—will have to do the same. Now I venture to say that the attitude of Mr. Cook himself, to say nothing of Mr. Irvine, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Dugald Thomson, and Mr. Reid, all of whom may be considered to be likely members of a coalition Government—or, if Mr. Cook likes the term better, a 'fusion' Government—are opposed to this very principle. Are we to understand, then, that for the sake of ousting the Labour party from office they are prepared to swallow compulsory military training? If so, I think, speaking for myself, I should be very glad if this great principle could be achieved by that means.

"The Navigation Bill is another case in point in which fusion or coalition cannot be achieved without a complete surrender of principles by one side or the other. And as it is inconceivable that Mr. Deakin, who holds the key of the situation so far as the Opposition is concerned, would be foolish enough to give way when by holding fast he could bring the others to his terms, there is clearly but one way in which a united Opposition can be formed; and that is by the Opposition going bodily over and ranging itself under the leadership of Mr. Deakin, and upon the Deakin platform.

"Mr. Cook, who very properly at this season of the year melts at the latter end of his remarks into poetry, and hints at delightful visions in rythmic lines, and of the time when he is going to hold the fort. With delightful insouciance he pretends to regard these words as mere playful prophecy, but it is clear that under the surface he is very much in earnest. It would appear, however, that before he reaches the oasis he has to plunge through many a mile of shifting sand, and in the end seems likely to find himself in strange company—a poor reward for such thankless toil by so able a man. He is wrong in supposing, however, that the Labour party is concerned about his wish to prevent his political annihilation. Nothing will please us better than that he should do that which he declares so easy, but which seems to me so difficult.

"Mr. Cook, and our critics generally, seem greatly concerned about our programme. Let them take heart. Our programme is all right. Mr. Cook says we have abandoned impossible ideals for practical achievements. This is a magnificent tribute wrung from the enemy. But there is one amendment required. We have never abandoned impossible ideals, for the simple and sufficient reason that we have never preached them. Our record as a Parliamentary party is one of practical legislation. We have ideals, as have all men who are worth their salt. But it is our boast and our pride that we face facts, and deal with the pressing requirements of the moment."

VICTORIAN ELECTIONS.

ANTI-SOCIALIST ANTICIPATIONS.

LABOUR'S MANIFESTO.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

With five days still to run before polling day, candidates are preparing for the strenuous life that marks the close of an election campaign. Each day sees an improvement in the position of the anti-socialist party, and its leaders are optimistic in their anticipations of the probable result of the elections. While the interests of the united party are the main consideration, it is regarded as being significant that of the 25 men who have been returned unopposed 13 are direct supporters of the Ministry. The latest addition to the ranks of the unopposed is Sir Henry Weedon, whose opponent in East Melbourne electorate, Mr. Kefford, retired from the contest to-day. Twenty-five new members include 18 who are supporters of the Ministerial policy as distinct from supporters of the Ministry.

The electorates in which contests will take place have now been reduced to 39, and supporters of the Ministerial policy are figuring in 31. A conservative estimate of the number of seats which the anti-socialists should win is 23. There is every reason for thinking that the number will be larger, so that with 18 unopposed candidates the party should have a substantial majority in the new House.

The Political Labour Council issued its election manifesto to-night. It states that the Victorian Labour party is faced with a position such as it never before has encountered. The Labour party would welcome a genuine appeal to the people at the proper time, but protests that the coming election is not a sincere effort to ascertain the will of the majority. The time is most inopportune for many reasons. First of all, no less than 56,000 men are voteless—an average of 860 in each electorate; secondly, the date of the elections is in the midst of the holidays, when thousands of voters will be absent from their homes; thirdly, women will be unable to vote, although the franchise for women has recently been wrung from the Bent Government by the Labour party after 20 years' fighting. The true issue before the electors is being misrepresented. It is not Bent or no Bent. The real issue is labour versus anti-labour.

CHINESE SECRETE OPIUM.

PERTH, Wednesday.

Customs officials at an early hour this morning made a search of the premises occupied by Wing Kee, at Fremantle. They discovered opium secreted under the floor valued at £54.

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COMPENSATING TURKEY.

AUSTRIA'S PROPOSALS.

SHIFTING THE BURDEN.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Constantinople states that the Marquis Pallavicini, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, has submitted to the Grand Vizier concrete proposals which indicate the willingness of Austria to agree to an increase of Customs duties to 15 per cent.

Austria also offers some compensation on account of the share of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Ottoman public debt.

It is understood that Turkey claims to be relieved of the public debt to the extent of £4,000,000; but if Turkey persists Austria will prefer counter-claims arising from expenditure in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Novibazar amounting to 20,000,000 crowns (£833,333).

[All goods imported into Turkey are now taxed 11 per cent. ad valorem, so that the Austrian proposal means an increase of 4 per cent. Previous to last year the tariff was 8 per cent. ad valorem, but on April 25, 1907, a protocol was signed by the Powers agreeing to the increase to 11 per cent. for a period of seven years. The British Ambassador, however, warned the Porte in a formal Note that the consent of the British Government was strictly conditional on the Porte's fulfilment of all the undertakings into which it had entered. The chief conditions accepted by the Porte related to the powers of the International Financial Commission in Macedonia and of the gendarmerie officers, and included an undertaking that the whole of the Government's share of the proceeds of the additional duty should be paid directly by the Macedonian budget to the public debt administration, which would encash it.]

BULGARIA ON HER DIGNITY.

TENSION WITH TURKEY.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Bulgaria, in a Note to the Powers, describes the passage in the Sultan's speech to the Turkish Parliament regretting the surprising action of Bulgaria in declaring independence, as an insult to Bulgaria and to Prince Ferdinand. Fresh tension is feared.

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION.

GERMAN INTERFERENCE ALLEGED.

A MUTINEER'S STORY.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

The ringleader, an ex-Bavarian officer, of the German mutineers in the French Foreign Legion at Algiers, declares that he acted under the formal instructions of the German Government.

How the desertion of men from the French Foreign Legion has been engineered by a German league is told by the "Temps." A former soldier of the Legion named Ohle wrote to the captain of the 1st Regiment of the Foreign Legion asking for information and photographs of a book which was to be written "in honour of France." The request was complied with. The book came out, and proved to be under the title of "White Slaves," a violent attack on the Legion. The author, Ohle, is said to be president of the league mentioned, with headquarters at Cologne. In Berlin a former corporal named Reichardt gives lectures on the Foreign Legion, and in one of these he described his arrangements for "bringing round to better sentiments" men of the Foreign Legion, that is to say, inducing them to desert. In Morocco, according to the "Bulletin du Comite de l'Afrique Francaise," agents at Casa Blanca distributed typewritten circulars among the Foreign Legion, promising five francs for every particular furnished of acts of looting done by men, and twenty francs for reports of similar acts on the part of officers. These agents are representatives of a large German business firm. The same "bulletin" states that these agents systematically treat men of the Legion to drinks in a German bar. When the troopers are intoxicated they are induced to remain the night, and proposals are made to give them money, food, and clothing, and to hide them until the first opportunity for shipping them to Hamburg, where a committee exists for looking after them on their arrival, and procuring work for them.

As a result of the operations of the League, some 200 members of the Foreign Legion have deserted during the military operations, and most of them were Germans. Deserters were particularly numerous during the three months of inactivity which followed the first operations of General Drude around Casa Blanca. The desertions ceased almost entirely after the arrival of General d'Amade, and with the resumption of military action and the repression in the Shawia. At first the deserters, who were supplied with plain clothes or native costumes by their compatriots or German proteges, who also sheltered them, were escorted to Rabat, a distance of eighty kilometres from Casa Blanca, and put on board ships by the Consular agent. But latterly no such discretion was shown, and the deserters were put on board ship at Casa Blanca under the very eyes of the military authorities. It is true that desertions always took place, but those at Casa Blanca were mostly brought about through the agency of the league.

The officer who gives these details adds that the members of the league, who form only a very small nucleus of the German colony at Casa Blanca, have made themselves objectionable by anti-French agitation among the natives. They are accused of having taken advantage of the pacification brought about by French arms to visit the tribes, recruit new proteges, and to stir the natives up to revolt by promising German intervention and spreading false news to humiliate and discredit the French in the eyes of the Moors. Certain incidents, such as the searching of the mails near the Camp du Boucheron, the demolition of the telegraph wires between Dar Ber Rechid and Dar Ben Ahmed, are attributed to these intrigues. If the resistance of certain tribes was particularly obstinate, the blame is thrown chiefly on these "bad Europeans."

The "Temps" adds that the agitators of the league are at the same time the chief informants of the German press.

UNREST IN SAMOA.

INTERFERENCE NOT LIKELY.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

In reference to cablegrams from Auckland alleging unrest among the natives in Samoa, it is semi-officially stated in Berlin that "neither the United States nor Great Britain is likely to interfere in the isolated intrigues of chieftains which the German authorities do not consider serious."

RENDERING GUNS USELESS.

NAVAL MEN SENTENCED.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Harold Curtis, A.B., and James Yates, stoker, were yesterday sentenced to two years and 12 months' imprisonment respectively, and to dismissal from the service, for throwing overboard a gun spring from H.M.S. Amethyst at Portsmouth.

CORRUPTION IN AMERICA.

CIVIC AUTHORITIES ARRESTED.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

At the instance of the reforming Mayor of Pittsburg (U.S.A.) and the Civic League, seven of the city councillors and two bankers have been arrested for bribery and corruption. They have been released on heavy bail.

SEDITION IN INDIA.

BOMB-THROWING AT TRAINS.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Two bombs were thrown at a train conveying Mr. Hume, Public Prosecutor, to Sodepur, but no one was hurt.

This is the seventh bomb outrage on this railway.

BE OF GOOD CHEER!
A little Wolfe's Schnapps night and morning does lasting good. It is at once "a drink and a tonic," and goes straight to the places that need help.—Advt.

WRECK ON THE IRISH COAST

COTTON STEAMER LOST.

FIVE HANDS DROWNED.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

The steamer Irada, 8124 tons, with a cargo of 22,000 bales of cotton from Galveston, U.S.A., to Liverpool, was totally wrecked on Mizen Head, Cork. The steamer ran ashore in a fog, a heavy sea prevailing at the time. Five men, including the captain, were drowned. The rest of the crew clung to the cliffs all night and were rescued at daybreak.

Steamer and cargo were insured for over £250,000. The loss falls primarily on New York, then on English companies, and Lloyd's.

The Irada was a steel twin-screw steamship of 8124 tons gross, and was built in 1900 by Workman, Clark, and Co., Ltd., at Belfast, for the Irada S.S. Company, Ltd., managed by J. H. Welsford and Co., Ltd. The Irada was over 500ft in length, and her propelling machinery consisted of two sets of triple-expansion engines.

REPRESSION OF INTIMIDATION.

IRISH MEMBER IMPRISONED.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Mr. James Patrick Farrell, M.P. (Nationalist), yesterday was ordered by the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice of Ireland to find security for keeping the peace for 12 months for publishing in the "Longford Leader" boycotting and intimidatory notices emanating from the United Irish League, also for making an inflammatory speech.

Mr. Farrell refused to find security, and was thereupon sentenced to six months' imprisonment without hard labour.

At the beginning of November Mr John Hayden, M.P., owner of the "Westmeath Examiner," Mr. Patrick M'Hugh, M.P., Mr. John M'Donnell, M.P., Mr. J. P. Farrell, M.P., and Mr. Jasper Tully, M.P., who are proprietors of newspapers circulating in the Midlands and the west of Ireland, were warned by the Irish Executive regarding the publication of resolution of an intimidatory character. Mr. Hayden replied that he would publish what he thought proper.

FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN.

LONDON VOTES £10,000.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

The County Council has voted a sum of £10,000 from the rates to help in providing free meals for needy school children in London schools.

THE JAMAICA EARTHQUAKE.

SETTLING INSURANCE CLAIMS.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Twenty-three English insurance companies agree to settle claims amounting to £800,000 arising out of litigation connected with the earthquake in Jamaica.

The determination of the insurance companies to settle the Jamaica claims no doubt follows the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the appeal by the Scottish Union and National Assurance Company against the decision of the Jamaica Courts awarding the insurance money to the claimants, Alfred Pawsey and Co., for loss sustained by fire on the occasion of the Jamaica earthquake on January 14, 1907. The principal question in the case was whether the fire that did the damage was occasioned by the earthquake so as to fall within the clauses of the policies protecting the appellants from liability for damage caused by fire occasioned by or happening through earthquake. The jury before whom the action was tried found that the fire was not occasioned through the earthquake. Upon that finding judgment was entered for Alfred Pawsey and Co. Sir Arthur Wilson, in stating the reasons of the Judicial Committee, said the rule acted upon by that body, as well as by other apellate tribunals, in cases where the verdict of a jury was thus impugned was clear and well settled. It was for the jury to decide questions of fact, and their decision upon such questions could not be interfered with by an appellate tribunal unless it be shown that that decision was one which could not reasonably have been arrived at upon the evidence before the jury. That was the test to be applied in the present case. Having reviewed the evidence, Sir Arthur Wilson said that in their lordships' opinion the jury might reasonably have considered that the fire which destroyed the respondents' property was due to the spread of neighbouring fires, not shown to have resulted from the earthquake.

BOXING.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

R. Fitzsimmons, who was interviewed in London, stated that he is willing to fight the winner of the Burns-Johnson contest.

THE TALLOW SALES.

LONDON, Dec. 23, 1.15 p.m.

At the sales of Australian and New Zealand tallow to-day 1300 casks were offered, and 800 were sold. Prices were unchanged, viz.:—Mutton, fine, 33/9, medium, 30/6; beef, fine 32/3, medium, 30/ per cwt.

DROUGHT IN TASMANIA.

PASTORAL AND FARMING OUTLOOK.

SHEEP FOR 2s 8d EACH.

HOBART, Wednesday.

"This drought is becoming serious," said the Chief Inspector of Stock (Mr. T. A. Tabart). "The condition of the country has become such that the marketing of sheep has become seriously affected. Owners who are desirous of purchasing are unable to do so on account of the scarcity of grass and water. Sheep that were offered for sale at Epping on the 16th met with poor competition. One owner who submitted his sheep informed the auctioneer that he did not intend to take the sheep home again; that if they were not sold he would again turn them into the road. These were young sheep, but they brought only 2s 8d. The first bid was 1s 3d A prize lot of wethers from one station realised 5s 8d. I have been in the lake country, which is drier than I have ever seen it. There is little feed there, and owners in that district are stocking up their full capacity."

The effect of the drought is felt in the fruit districts, where the green beetle is doing great damage. The grass grub is also very destructive. In Hobart restriction has been placed on the use of water for irrigation, though Mount Wellington springs yield a million gallons daily.

POLICE AND ARTILLERY.

THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN.

ENTERTAINED BY LORD DUDLEY.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

Government House grounds this afternoon were astir with policemen and their wives and children, and with the Royal Australian Artillery and their wives and children.

The Governor-General and Countess of Dudley had arranged the meeting in the form of a garden party. Their Excellencies took an active part in the games of the day, hailed the winners of events, and more than once expressed regret that their own children were not eligible to compete. Lord Dudley's youngest boy roved round, with eyes full of envy at the others of his age who were racing for prizes. His eyes opened even wider when the Countess of Dudley handed toys and books out of a big box to the children of other mothers.

During the afternoon the Prime Minister joined the gathering, accompanied by Mrs. Fisher and their son. He waited until the end, and joined in the hearty cheers that were given for their Excellencies when the prize-giving was over. Then 3000 fathers, mothers, and children swarmed down the walks and back into the city again.

DOWNFALL OF CASTRO.

HIS PLOT THAT FAILED.

NEW PRESIDENT CONCILIATORY.

SETTLEMENT OF FOREIGN DISPUTES.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Senor Gomez, Acting-President of the Republic of Venezuela, has eliminated all adherents of President Castro from the Cabinet.

President Castro has ordered in Berlin 50,000 Mauser rifles, and is negotiating with German shipyards for several warships, also with Krupps regarding the purchase of guns.

Dec. 23.

The frustration of a plot to assassinate the Acting President of Venezuela, Senor Gomez, completed the downfall of President Castro. The conspirators intended to seize the administration, and with the army overawe the population. The prisoners include a brother of President Castro.

A document which has been filed in the Federal High Court proposes to impeach President Castro for complicity in the plot. His money supplies have been stopped.

Acting President Gomez has issued a proclamation promising a decorous and pacific solution of international disputes. The navigation decree of which Holland complained has been revoked.

It remains to be seen whether President Castro has been overcome, but there is this fact, which seems to point to the end of his rule: He is now enjoying himself in the picnic places of Europe, the Mecca of all South American robber presidents when they accumulated gold. The career of this man has been most remarkable, even among the Republics of Latin America. President Castro is an Andino, and as such has revenged on the capital and the other States of the Venezuela the years of robbery which his fellow-provincialists suffered from the harpies of the Government. A chance inflamed their old standing resentment against the central Government, writes a correspondent of the "Morning Post," and gave President Castro his opening.

It was the habit of Venezuelan frontiersmen, when the tax-collector came round, to drive their cattle over the Colombian border, offering similar hospitality to Colombian ranchmen in their hour of need. The day of reckoning came when the tax-collectors of the two States, supported by troops, appeared simultaneously on each side of the frontier. There was a brush. Among others, Castro's cattle were seized and confiscated for non-payment of taxes, and his ranch was destroyed. His employment thus being gone, he raised the standard of revolt. His neighbours flocked around him. In a few weeks the local capital was entered, and Castro was proclaimed President of the Andine province. Andrade, too honest for Venezuela, was at that time President, and towards the close of 1898 the military chiefs decided that the time had arrived for another insurrection. They called in Castro and his mountaineers to help them, not doubting that when the proper moment arrived he could be satisfied with some minor office, or be otherwise disposed of. Castro responded, marched upon Caracas with his 600 border "bushwackers," and, aided by the treachery of Andrade's generals, not only reached it, but was at once proclaimed President. Not a week passed before the members of the military junta awakened to the fact that in pushing Castro forward they had overreached themselves. He dismissed every one of them, and surrounded himself with men recruited from the Andine province, his old brothers-in-arms, and a few stray adventurers who had helped him to power.

From that day to within the last few months the power of General Castro has never been seriously contested. Though his ambition was to become dictator of a federation of Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador, he never lost sight of his determination to keep Venezuela for the Venezuelans. He has resisted the United States of America just as strongly as he has flouted the Powers of Europe. When he was embroiled with Europe, he took advantage of the safety afforded by the Monroe doctrine, but he cared nothing for the "big stick" of President Roosevelt, and only this year the situation became so acute that the United States Charge d'Affaires was withdrawn from Caracas. Though there was still a Parliament in Venezuela, though the President addressed members as "citizen senators" and "citizen deputies," as though they really had an independent existence, President Castro was the beginning and end of all legislation, of all decrees, and of all official activities. The Supreme Court was absolutely his creature. A Chief Justice, who was Chief Justice in fact as well as in name, disappeared when he had the tactlessness to discover over 100 men in prison at Caracas who had been thrown there by executive authority, and when he had the temerity to propose to inquire into their cases. President Castro talked of himself as a second Bolivar, another Caesar, a Washington redivivus. But even the Spanish language was hardly equal to coping with the panegyrics which bubbled up to the dictator and gushed from him. He was the "restorer of Venezuela," his heart was inspired by "ideals sublime and grandiose." The blessings he bestowed on his country were "as refulgent as the light of the king star when it shines in the zenith." Conjured by his irresistible will, Venezuela rose "from the brink of the abyss to present herself to the admiration of the nations, grand, dignified, high, supreme."

THE MINIMUM WAGE.

TO OPERATE ON JANUARY 1.

WHAT ITS EFFECT WILL BE.

The Minimum Wage Act of 1908, which comes into operation on January 1, 1909, applies throughout the whole of the State of New South Wales, and provides that a minimum wage of 4s per week shall be paid to all persons coming within the definition of workman or shop-assistant. "Workman" means any person employed at any handicraft, or in preparing or manufacturing any article for trade or sale, whether in a factory or not, and "shop-assistant" means a person employed in or in connection with the sale of goods in a shop. The payment of a premium or bonus on behalf of employees in connection with the manufacture of articles of clothing or wearing apparel is prohibited. A workman puts in overtime when he works more than 48 hours in any week, or after six o'clock in the evening on any working day, and a shop-assistant works overtime when he works more than one half hour after the closing time of the shop in terms of the Early Closing Acts. A minimum overtime rate of three pence per hour is to be paid to all males under sixteen years of age, and to all females, the payment to be made at intervals of not more than one month, as well as a sum of not less than sixpence as tea-money, to be paid on the day the overtime is worked. Records are to be kept in the prescribed form of all such overtime worked, and must be produced to an inspector when demanded. The attention of all persons employing girls at millinery or dressmaking is specially directed to the provisions of this Act, as it is at this class of work that there is reason to believe young girls are employed at a lower rate of wage than that provided for under the Minimum Wage Act of 1908.

In Victoria the minimum wage fixed for certain trades is 2s 6d. In Queensland it is 2s 6d, with one month's probation, and overtime and tea money about the same as in the New South Wales Act. In South Australia the minimum is 4s, and in New Zealand it is 5s. Visiting representative men from New Zealand, including Mr. M'Nab, stated, while the bill was before the New South Wales Parliament, that 4s here was equal to about 7s or 8s in New Zealand.

DREADFUL ACCIDENTS.

MINER'S LEGS AMPUTATED.

BROKEN HILL, Wednesday.

To-day, on the railway line, between Block 10 and the Zinc Corporation, David Costello was engaged shunting trucks of tailings from Block 10. He encountered an obstacle, and was knocked under the trucks, which passed over him, cutting off both his legs. Costello is an old employee of the Silverton Tramway Company, and is an experienced man.

YOUNG MAN'S HANDS CUT OFF.

INVERELL, Wednesday.

A young man, Thos. Smith, aged 24, at Nullamduna, to-day was engaged in feeding a new steam chaffcutter at Champ's farm. By some means both hands were drawn into the machine and chopped off up to the wrists. Smith was brought to the Inverell Hospital in a low condition from loss of blood and shock. Smith comes from Glen Innes, and is a married man with two children. His wife is away on holidays in Sydney.

FATAL CIRCULAR SAW ACCIDENT.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

The Nambour police have forwarded a telegram to the Commissioner of Police to the effect that Thomas Brandt, a man employed at the Woombye Sawmills, met his death yesterday morning by falling on a circular saw in motion.

BARRIER TROUBLES.

FEDERAL COURT TO DECIDE.

NOTICE BY PROPRIETARY AND BLOCK 10.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company and Block 10 Company have been deliberating upon the attitude they should adopt in respect to the demand of the combined unions at the Barrier as to the rate of wages. Mr. Delprat, general manager of the Proprietary Company, last week met the employees of his company at Port Pirie and Broken Hill, and submitted proposals to them for the adoption of either a sliding scale of wages to be determined by the price of metals, or the payment of a bonus to be based upon the profits earned over a fixed period. The men, however, declined to accept either proposal. Consequently the directors had to decide whether they would fall in line with the companies that have agreed to pay the current scale of wages, or adhere to their determination notified on December 7, 1908, that—(1) Work at the mine will be stopped from Monday, December 21, to Monday, January 4, for the holidays; (2) the bonus granted for two years dating from January 1, 1907, will cease on January 1, 1909, and that the present rate of wages, less the bonus, will remain in force.

Mr. Delprat has been in Melbourne for several days in consultation with the directors, and to-day it was announced that the board had issued instructions that the following notice should be issued at the mine and at Port Pirie:—

"The board adheres to its determination notified on December 7, 1908, that the increase of wages granted for two years dating from January 1, 1907, will cease on January 1, 1909, and that the present rate of wages, less the increase, will remain in force.

"The board will co-operate with the combined unions or the Amalgamated Miners' Association in bringing the dispute as to wages before the Federal Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and will raise no question as to its jurisdiction.

"The board will pay the rates of wages awarded by the Court as from January 1, 1909, and if the Court decides on a rate higher than the 1906 rate the difference will be made up to the men as from January 1, 1909, as a separate account will be kept of each man's time."

This decision means that the board is pursuing its policy that the question of wages shall be fixed by the Federal Court of Arbitration, and that it will put no obstacle in the way of that end being arrived at.

The directors of Block 10 Company also took the subject into consideration, and announced that the following notice is to be posted at their mine to-day:—

"After mature deliberation, the board of directors has decided that the best means to adopt in order to get a satisfactory and permanent settlement of the wages to be paid on the Barrier is to allow the matter to be settled by the Court, and thus obviate as far as possible a recurrence of the disputes in future. The mine and works will be closed, as already notified, for the Christmas and New Year holidays, from Thursday, December 24, 1908, to Monday, January 4, 1909. The present rate of wages will be paid until January 15, 1909, thus giving the necessary three weeks' notice, as required by the Act. From that date the increase of wages granted for the two years dating from January 1, 1907, will cease, and the rate of wages in existence prior to January 1, 1907, will be paid until the award of the Federal Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is made in the proceedings to be taken between the combined unions or the Amalgamated Miners' Association and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited. Immediately this award is made, this company will pay its employees the rate of wages determined by the Court, and the difference, if necessary, between the wages paid from January 15 until the date of the award will be paid to each employee, the directors having decided to keep a special account of each employee, so that the amount of money, if any, then due to each shall be accurately determined."

BROKEN HILL, Wednesday.

The Proprietary notification this afternoon came as a surprise to all. Something better was expected. A general feeling of disappointment prevailed when the company's decision was made known. A meeting of the combined union delegates was held in the Trades Hall to-night. The position was lengthily discussed, but no decision was available at a late hour. The meeting was held with closed doors, and no idea of the delegates' views was allowed to filter through.

ENGINEMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

FEW CONCESSIONS GRANTED.

A FURTHER APPEAL.

The Loco. Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association has received a reply from the Chief Commissioner for Railways with reference to a number of grievances placed before Mr. Johnson by a deputation in June.

With reference to the long hours worked by the men, the Commissioner states that instructions have been issued to avoid working long hours in one week and short hours the following week. This was being done with few exceptions, due to unforeseen and sudden falls in traffic. The request for weekly computations of time could not be agreed to.

The Commissioner considered time and a quarter for Sunday work reasonable, and could not extend the rate to time and a half.

The request that overtime be paid at the rate of time and a quarter could not be acceded to. The association requested that 10 hours a day be considered unreasonable, and the Commissioner's reply states that, in view of the low percentage of running time worked by enginemen, the present time was not unreasonable.

The reply also states that the restriction of Christmas passes could not be avoided owing to heavy holiday traffic.

Instructions were being given that, where men were unable to meet the paymaster, wages should be left, as far as possible, with the stationmaster. The reply states that the present vision and hearing tests are considered to meet all requirements, and no alteration, as suggested by the association, would be entertained.

With regard to the provision of screens for engines running tender first, the Commissioner stated that these would tend to obscure the view of the drivers. Everything would be done to reduce the practice of running engines tender first.

A request that steam tram drivers receive an increase of 1s a day was not met.

The Commissioner was unable to make any further concessions with regard to extended leave after long service in the event of a man's health being impaired.

The Chief Commissioner for Railways has now received a further letter from the association asking for the reconsideration of certain matters which he had declined to entertain. It is held in this letter that the previous Railway Commissioners had promised to grant many of these concessions "when better times came." The association now suggests that the year's earnings have been such as to entitle the requests to favourable consideration. It is proposed, if need be, to apply the test of the Industrial Disputes Act. Mr. Johnson has yet to give his reply.

PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS.

STIMULATING POLICE AND CUSTOMS.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The Government has decided that the police, as well as the Customs, are to be rewarded on discoveries of prohibited immigrants being made. This order specially applies to about ten Chinese who were said to have escaped ashore from a steamer in the hold of which 20 others were found recently.

HIGH PRICES FOR POULTRY.

THE PROHIBITIVE CHRISTMAS TURKEY.

There are many who will be disappointed at not being able to secure poultry this Christmas, owing to the high prices.

The supplies at present are lighter than they have been for many years. Sussex-street merchants are downcast with the present position of the market, as they expected to do a fairly large amount of business. During "feet week," it will be remembered, the market was glutted, and coops of poultry were kept on hand for weeks, as they were not sought. Shippers during that week rushed the market with their stocks, expecting a big demand, but supplies soon proved too large, and the market slumped.

Since that time stocks have been coming in lightly, and instead of the usual Christmas quantity arriving this week, an ordinary shipment from the northern rivers came to hand. This dearth is attributed to the dearness of food. Maize is about double the price that it was last year, while bran and pollard also show a large increase. Poultry farmers have found it unprofitable to pay the price for feed, as the birds do not return sufficient profit. They therefore largely reduced their flocks, while many have taken over dairy farming instead.

The following will show a few of the prices obtained in Sussex-street for poultry a pair this year, as compared with last year:—

	1907.		1908.
Turkeys	7/ to 18/	..	8/ to 25/
Ducks	2/9 to 3/9	..	3/ to 8/
Geese	6/ to 6/6	..	7/ to 12/
Fowls	2/3 to 2/9	..	2/9 to 4/

CRICKET TURMOIL.

PLAYERS UNANIMOUS.

SUPPORT NOBLE AND HILL.

POSITION TO BE DISCUSSED.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The arrival of the N. S. Wales cricketers from Adelaide to-day was of special interest in view of the position which has arisen in connection with the next Australian eleven. The fact that M. A. Noble had stated in a joint interview with himself and Clem. Hill that they would not go to England under present conditions, coupled with the telegram that the board were determined to stick to their decision, has attracted general attention, and has precipitated the crisis. Noble repeats what he said in Adelaide that he, at any rate, will not go to England under the conditions proposed. He does not deny the fact that the Board of Control, representing all the interests of cricket, is entitled to charge some small percentage of profits to maintain the management of the game, and that if this had been asked by the present board it would not have been objected to. It is plain, from talking with leading players, that they are disgusted at the attempt by the board to take 5 per cent. on the expenses of the tour, at the exorbitant claim of 12½ per cent. on the profits, and especially at the selection committee appointed. There are smaller points to which they take exception, but these are the main grievances. It is a matter of general comment that the players are practically unanimous on the action they intend to take. They say that the statement that the board is determined to go on is not surprising, for it is the only possible position the board can take up. Victorian and N. S. Wales players will meet during the course of the next few days to discuss the position. In the meantime they are standing firm and endorsing the action of Noble.

At a meeting of the Ballarat Cricket Association to-night it was decided to forward the following telegram to Mr. M'Elhone, the secretary of the Cricket Board of Control:—"The Ballarat Cricket Association suggests the board disband." Dr. Salmon, the president, said that the motion was passed because of what were regarded as the arbitrary terms which the board was seeking to arrange in regard to the next Australian Eleven. The opinion of the association was that the board was not really forwarding the interests of Australian cricket, but was hindering the game.

ATTITUDE OF NOBLE AND HILL.

GENERAL CONDEMNATION.

"Will there be a team for England?" is the question discussed in all directions, and with it, "What do you think of the Noble-Hill attitude?"

The position taken up by the two famous batsmen is generally condemned in cricket circles. Both have said that they will not go to England, and to this the board practically says, "Well, stay at home." Should it happen that the two, after the first breeze of antagonism against the board has had time to blow over, still determine not to make the trip, it will weaken a side which at present does not appear likely to be as strong as other teams which have represented Australia.

NOBLE CERTAIN FOR CAPTAINCY.

It was probably a disappointment to Noble when he was beaten, on the boat going across to New Zealand, by Darling in the election for captain of the 1905 Australian Eleven, and naturally he has looked forward to the accomplishment of the crowning act of his cricketing career in 1909, when, all things being well, he will almost for a certainty be chosen to lead the team. To stand out when on the threshold of the highest position a cricketer can attain will be a great wrench, not only to himself, but to his Australian supporters.

HILL'S POSITION AS SELECTOR.

Hill is also in a doubtful position. The majority must rule. Hill is a member of the Board of Control; he represents South Australia. He would have been present at the meeting of the board had there not been the South Australia v New South Wales match in Adelaide to require his attention. But now he has openly flaunted the decision of the board with regard to the finances of the team, of which he is one of the selectors.

Nothing will probably be done until the selectors get together, which may be about the time of the South Australian match here, during the second week in January. No doubt the selectors will do as they did in 1905—select 10 certainties and agree upon the remaining four during or at the close of the New South Wales v Victoria contest, at the end of January.

The appointment of the manager by the team will be subject to approval of the board. It seems pretty certain that Frank Laver will be chosen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Your reference to the attitude of Noble and Hill towards the financial suggestions of the board is timely, and may lead these and other of our leading cricketers to the conclusion that it is just possible there may be another standpoint than that of their own personal interest.

One has only to look back a few years to realise that although the game owes much to the brilliancy of M. A. Noble and his thorough mastery of the game, he also owes much to the game of cricket, which many think has done so much to place him in the fortunate position of life he now occupies.

Unfortunately many of our cricketers, although most jealous of their status as amateurs, appear to consider not the credit and pleasure derived from the game but simply what can be made out of it.

The Board of Control has placed cricketing matters on a much higher plane than they have ever previously occupied, and Australia can have greater confidence in a team selected by them than, as in the past, by a private coterie of players, likely to have personal or financial reasons for selecting some particular player.

I am sure everyone wishes to see the next Australian Eleven composed of the best players, but the players must be shown that the Board of Control must rule, even though the personal profit to players may not reach quite the handsome amount received on former journeys. I am, etc.,

Dec. 23. A. B. S.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—From your issue of even date the public learn that Messrs. M. A. Noble and C. Hill decline to accompany the next team to England under the terms offered by the Board of Control. The majority of cricket lovers throughout the Commonwealth are just heartily sick of the attitude of some of our leading cricketers. When the "players" came to their senses some time since, and bowed to the control of the board, it was generally believed that all trouble was at an end.

The Board of Control has only one course now to pursue, and that is, in the event of the players standing out—leave them out. In the ordinary course of events some of these recalcitrants have only got one more trip in front of them. New men will have to replace them then—why not now? Even if the personnel of the team is entirely altered, the board must stand firm, and in doing so it will have public support. In the present struggle there is no middle course, and if the board gives way it will be a case of "in memoriam."

I am, etc., H.P.W.

Camden, Dec. 22.

SERIOUS SHOOTING ACCIDENT.

YOUNG MAN BADLY INJURED.

MURRURUNDI, Wednesday.

Harry Bryant, who accidentally shot himself last night, was a railway employee, about 21 years of age, and was a well-known Glebe footballer.

It appears that after work, about half-past 5, Bryant, in company with a fellow workman named Pillman, went for a shot at some game, about two miles out of town. He was carrying a double-barrelled breech-loading gun, and on seeing a hare cocked both barrels, and shot it. He then threw the gun down to get the hare, and in doing so, the other barrel exploded, hitting Bryant in the fleshy part of the thigh, the charge passing right through towards the knee.

Pillman ran to his assistance as speedily as possible, and being fortunate in seeing someone on horseback, sent word to town to acquaint the medical officer of the accident, and also to have a cart sent out to convey the sufferer to the local hospital, which was reached about half-past 8.

Dr. Fullerton, who was in readiness to attend to the sufferer, dressed the wound, which was a very bad one. The patient seemed to be fairly well soon after, and at present there is not likely to be any serious result, although some time must elapse before he can get about again. Bryant intended leaving for home in the morning to spend Christmas with his parents.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCULLING.

ARNST AND BARRY.

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), Wednesday.

Arnst considers that Barry should come to New Zealand if he wants to row for the championship. The whole matter is to be considered by his backers within a few days. Arnst will train Fogwell for his coming match with Whelch, of Akaroa, for £100.

NEW RAILWAY RATES.

GOODS CHARGES REDUCED.

TO OPERATE FROM JANUARY 1.

£60,000 INVOLVED.

The Chief Commissioner for Railways, Mr. Johnson, has come forward with something in the form of a welcome new year's gift for the producers of the country.

The alterations in the goods rates just approved, which will come into operation on and from New Year's Day, represent a reduction in rates in round figures of £60,000. The most important general alteration is in regard to the mileage scale for all classes of goods. With a view to uniformity, a new scale has been adopted, the effect of which is to afford substantial relief to the higher freight traffic carried long distances. The figures representing the old and new rates per ton for various distances are:—

Miles.	Class "M." £	s	d	Class "A." £	s	d	Class "B." £	s	d	Class "C." £	s	d
100—1909	0	8	11	0	11	10	0	18	10	1	6	3
1908	0	8	11	0	11	8	0	18	4	1	6	3
200—1909	0	14	2	1	0	3	1	13	5	2	7	1
1908	0	14	1	1	0	0	1	12	11	2	8	2
300—1909	0	17	4	1	6	5	2	3	10	3	1	8
1908	0	18	3	1	6	3	2	4	4	3	4	10
400—1909	1	0	5	1	10	7	2	12	2	3	14	2
1908	1	2	5	1	10	5	2	12	8	3	17	4
500—1909	1	2	6	1	14	9	2	18	5	4	2	6
1908	1	4	6	1	14	7	3	1	0	4	9	10

Miles.	Class 1st. £	s	d	Class 2nd. £	s	d	Class 3rd. £	s	d
100—1909	1	16	8	2	4	11	2	14	10
1908	1	16	5	2	4	9	2	14	10
200—1909	3	4	0	3	18	3	4	16	6
1908	3	6	0	4	1	11	5	0	8
300—1909	4	0	8	4	19	1	6	1	6
1908	4	7	0	5	8	2	6	11	11
400—1909	4	18	2	5	15	9	6	18	2
1908	5	8	0	6	14	5	7	4	5
500—1909	5	1	6	6	8	3	7	10	8
1908	6	9	0	8	0	8	8	0	8

Under the new rates a merchant at, say, Dubbo will pay 5s 8d and 8s 3d and 10s 5d a ton less on the first, second, and third class traffic, while for the longer haul to Bourke the reduction will amount to 27s 8d. On first-class traffic on the southern line Wagga will get an advantage of 7s 7d and 10s 10d per ton on the first and second class goods. On the northern line the reduction amounts to 1s 11d, 3s 5d, and 4s 2d per ton respectively on first, second, and third class traffic at Tamworth, while 77 miles further along at Armidale, the storekeepers will have a better rate by 4s 7d, 6s 11d, and 9s 10d per ton. On traffic for Moree—414 miles from Sydney—the reduction amounts to 7s 7d, 10s 5d, and 6s 9d per ton.

A new rate has been introduced for the carriage of coal in department's trucks, which will be appreciated by the users of coal, particularly those engaged in mining, and who are situated inland away from the coal-producing centres. Local housekeepers will also recognise the benefit of the reduction, as it has been evident for some time past, owing to the distance that firewood has to be carted to many of the important country towns, that the time is not far distant when the consumers will have to look for other fuel. To-day the freight on a ton of coal for 100 miles is 8s 11d, but under the new scale it will be 7s 2d, a reduction of 19 per cent., and for longer distances the concession increases. The rates for cement have been revised. As this article is becoming extensively used in the country, particularly in regard to building, the general rate has been fixed under the miscellaneous class for full truck loads, and "A" class for lots of not less than six tons. This represents a substantial reduction, as cement is carried long distances to country towns.

An important alteration has also been made in the rates for machinery. Hitherto specified classes of machinery, such as mining, milling, and sheep-shearing, have enjoyed a lower rate, but all classes of machinery are now placed under the same rate, that is, "B" class for six ton lots, and first-class for smaller quantities. What is known as the local rate has been taken off the Narrabri West to Burren Junction section, in view of the satisfactory business on that section; that is to say, the charges will in future be computed on the through mileage instead of to or from Narrabri West added to a separate local charge, thence to destination. An important alteration has been made in the conditions of carriage of store and starving stock. Under the new regulations starving stock will be carried from one district to another at three-fourths of the ordinary rate, while free carriage will be allowed on the return journey. This concession is practically the same as the half-rate on the forward journey and quarter rate on the return journey which previously operated, but under the new arrangement the reduced charge will be conceded at the time the stock is carried, provided the prescribed certificates are presented at the time of consigning.

An appreciable concession has also been made in regard to store stock forwarded at the convenience of the department, which will in future be carried at two-thirds of the ordinary mileage rate if a declaration is produced by owner at the sending station to the effect that they are in store condition. This will be of considerable benefit to pastoralists and others by assisting them to remove their stock at the reduced rates to new pastures before the grass and water have actually failed on their runs. The reduction has been strongly urged on the Chief Commissioner by pastoralists, and it will be welcomed. Another advantage in the re-issue of the rates book will be the fact that it has been brought up to date. Since the previous rate book many changes have been made more or less important, and all alterations since the date of the last rates book—March, 1907—will be incorporated in the new edition.

AH WONG'S DEATH.

QUINN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

COLBERT'S ARREST ORDERED.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

The inquest on the body of Ah Wong, a Chinaman, aged 42, who died at Adelaide Hospital on Sunday, was continued to-day. Thomas Joseph Quinn was again present in custody.

Further evidence was given by women who lived in the Chinese neighbourhood. It was stated that Quinn and another man threw stones and kicked deceased. The police evidence was that Ah Wong stated: "Tom Quinn and someone else knocked me down and threw stones at me." Quinn, answering Constable Feehan, said: "I had nothing to do with it. It was the other man who upset his beer and started the whole row, and then went to Hawden-street and threw stones at him." Feehan inquired who was the other man, and Quinn replied, "Joe Colbert," and added: "I have had enough of Chinamen. I have done two months for them."

The coroner committed Quinn for trial on a charge of wilful murder, and a warrant was issued for the apprehension of Colbert on a similar charge.

ENGLISH JEWELLERY.

"NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR AUSTRALIA."

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The operations of the Commerce Act in regard to imported jewellery have stirred the "Watchmaker, Jeweller, and Optician," published in England, to ask the trade why the loaded articles should be good enough for England when they are not good enough for the colonies. The Minister for Customs has issued copies of the printed matter, in which the writer says:—"The colonies cannot be blamed if they will not accept the unsatisfactory stuff that is sold at home."

CHRISTMAS TREE ON FIRE.

POOR CHILDREN'S TOYS DESTROYED.

As a result of a Christmas tree catching fire in Rawson Hall last evening, a number of children may lose their Christmas presents.

The Central Methodist Mission, which occupied the hall, had collected toys and decorated a Christmas tree in order that none of the children who attend the mission should be without a Christmas present.

By some accident the decorations caught fire at a gas bracket, and, though the flames were soon put out, practically all the children's toys were destroyed.

INCIDENT ON A FERRY STEAMER.

INSULTING BEHAVIOUR ON THE NARRABEEN.

A gentleman, named George Miller, a resident of Manly, was returning to his home on Tuesday evening, and took a seat in the saloon of the steamer Narrabeen. Opposite sat a man who fixed his gaze upon Miller, and then sent a boy over to him with a card, upon which was written "I want to insult you." When Mr. Miller got off the boat, the man used threatening language to him, and followed him to his residence. No provocation was given, and naturally Mr. Miller felt very much annoyed at being insulted before a crowd of people, and placed the matter in the hands of the police. Yesterday, as a consequence, an agent, named Stephen Guy, 41, was charged at the Water Police Court with using threatening language to George Miller on the ferry steamer Narrabeen then in Port Jackson, namely, "By ——, I am going to do for you; by ——, I will kill you; by ——, I will shoot you George Miller. I will give you until the 31st to live." Through his solicitor, the accused said that he regretted the whole affair, and had no recollection of offending as charged. He was ordered to keep the peace for six months, and find the necessary sureties or go to gaol for three months.

POSTAL COMMISSION.

SENATOR MULCAHY RESIGNS.

BROWBEATING WITNESSES.

THE CHARGES REPUDIATED.

HOBART, Wednesday.

At the conclusion of the examination of a witness before the Postal Commission yesterday, Senator Mulcahy said he desired to make a personal statement. He said he had accepted a seat on the commission believing that he was joining a body of public men who were undertaking an inquiry into an important public department. He had thought, rightly or wrongly, that from the nature of the inquiry the commission was a semi-judicial body, and that the inquiry would be conducted on those lines. For that reason he had thought that commissioners would have divested themselves of personal ideas, and endeavoured to come to the inquiry with an open mind. It was only just to say that most of the commissioners had recognised that ideal, and had examined witnesses impartially, and tried to obtain evidence in a proper manner. He would have liked to be able to say the same honestly of all the commissioners. Witnesses were, he held, entitled to be treated with respect, but he was forced to say that to a degree witnesses before them were treated in a way that gave him the impression that they were defendants on their trial, and not officers in high positions who had come before them to give the knowledge they possessed. Witnesses had from time to time been treated in a way which he considered offensive. Officers, from Mr. Scott, secretary of the department, downwards, had been so treated. He had felt it his duty from time to time to intervene, and he had always done so with a good purpose. He had desired to uphold the dignity of the commission to the best of his power. He had intervened to protect witnesses, though possibly not always tactfully. It was his intention to hand in his resignation, with a request that it should be forwarded to the Governor-General, and he would have done so without saying anything about it, but he had been placed in an awkward position, which made it necessary for him to make an explanation. Something had taken place last week in Hobart with regard to the examination of a witness. That examination had reminded him more of the examination of a contumacious and recalcitrant witness in a police court than of a court of inquiry. He complained of what he regarded as a threat. Whether it was a threat or not he would leave to the public to judge. He intervened and protested against the treatment which was being meted out to an officer who was in a bad state of health, and who admitted at the close of the inquiry that he was in a state of collapse. He had met with public insult on that occasion. He had been told that he was always chipping in, and that if he continued to do so he would be chipped out. That was one of the things that had brought it to his mind that so long as he remained on the commission with Mr. Webster and another member, Senator De Largie, there would not be that harmony which should prevail, and which was necessary for the work of the commission. He would like to say, for it was due to himself and other members of the commission, and to the public, that he had many times publicly expressed disapproval of a certain course, and that disapproval was felt by other members of the commission, who had not stated so in public. He had listened to the examination of Mr. Lord as to the examination of a contumacious witness in the police court, and he would add that the chairman, Mr. Storrer, Dr. Salmon, and he thought Mr. Wilks agreed with that view, but their opinion had not been expressed in public. In the circumstances he had come reluctantly to the conclusion that it was necessary for him to resign his commission.

The chairman said he had nothing to say in regard to the consideration which had guided Senator Mulcahy in coming to his determination, except so far as his position as chairman was affected.

Senator Mulcahy: I intend no reflection on you, Mr. Chairman.

The chairman: I have always and at all times endeavoured to treat every witness with courtesy and consideration due from one man to another. I feel that the commission is a semi-judicial body, and is bound to adhere to the rules of evidence as far as possible. As far as he had been able, he had endeavoured to protect alike the rights of witnesses and commissioners. It was not an easy thing to step in and say to a commissioner, "I don't approve of what you say or do." He explained that he did not hear the words which were addressed to Mr. Lord, and which led to Senator Mulcahy's protest. All he knew was what transpired subsequently. Had he heard the words, and had they been such as should not have been used, he would have taken steps to have them recalled. When Mr. Webster understood the construction which was put on his words he was as sorry as anybody else that they had been used, and offered amends.

Senator Mulcahy then proceeded to leave the room.

Senator De Largie: I want Senator Mulcahy to remain. It is my intention to make certain charges against him.

Senator Mulcahy left the room.

Senator De Largie: I reckon this is a cowardly action to make a charge and then walk out of the room. I think it is a cowardly thing for a man to do.

The chairman: Order, order.

Mr. Webster: Typical, typical.

Senator De Largie: The first opinion one draws from a statement of that kind is that you have been unable to conduct the business of this commission, Mr. Chairman.

The chairman: I leave that to the judgment of the commissioners.

Senator De Largie: You are quite safe in doing that. You have conducted this commission as well as it is possible for man to do it. Any little opportunity that was given him to score off certain members of the commission, Senator Mulcahy never failed to take. Every little petty opportunity as regards asking questions he would raise an objection. He was never interfered with himself; none of us ever seemed to care what he said; but when certain members of the commission asked questions, Senator Mulcahy intervened, and posed as something superior to his fellow commissioners. I resented that, but I kept my mouth shut, though I felt a good deal of indignation. Continuing, he said that as to the treatment of witnesses, with one exception he did not know that any objection could be taken to the line of questioning. As to Mr. Lord they found the reason of his difficulty afterwards. According to Mr. Stanfield Mr. Lord came before the commission with a statement that Mr. Stanfield had prepared. Mr. Lord was not at all conversant with that statement. He practically knew nothing about it. When Mr. Webster questioned him he was not able to explain. Mr. Webster could not understand the position, nor could he. He (Senator De Largie) did not think that Mr. Webster threatened the witness. All he understood Mr. Webster to say was that if Mr. Lord could not give certain information which was required, other officers would have to be called in to give it. He had never seen any necessity to get down on his belly to witnesses. They had been treated like men, and that was all that they could expect.

Mr. Wilks said he regretted that Senator Mulcahy had not remained because the Commissioners had given him a patient hearing. Under the cover of personal statement he had made very serious charges, which affected them as public men. As far as upholding the dignity of the Commission was concerned, every member of the Commission was anxious to do that. They realised the importance of the inquiry, and besides, they were jealous of their personal repute. As to protecting witnesses, he could say that there was not need for any member of the Commission to take that upon himself. The Chairman always did that, and he had not failed in his duty.

Mr. Storrer complained that Senator Mulcahy had made it appear that he had one opinion privately, and expressed another in public.

Mr. Webster said he had nothing to apologise for. He had done nothing as a member of the Commission which he regretted. He was sorry in a way for what had occurred, but at the same time he did not know of anything more likely to conduce to a substantial result of the Commission than that Senator Mulcahy should have handed in his resignation as he had done.

The Commission then adjourned, after having heard witnesses as to King Island mail service and other local matters.

FIRE AT BROKEN HILL.

BROKEN HILL, Wednesday.

A fire in Cobalt-street last night partly destroyed a six-roomed house, owned by H. Langford and occupied by A. C. Clarke. The occupier was cleaning up the house, ready for the return of his wife to-day from Adelaide, when a lamp burst. The house was insured for £125 in the Royal Office, and the furniture for £100 in the Commercial Union.

A fire to-night broke out in Argent-lane, in premises occupied by Neimann and Bishop, trading as the Barrier Import and Agency Company, indent merchants, etc., and owned by Robert West, of Sydney. The brigade got on to the fire promptly and extinguished it before any great damage was done. A quantity of samples, however, were damaged by fire and water, and most of the office papers were consumed. The stock was insured for £250 in the General Insurance Company. The building was also insured.

BODY IDENTIFIED.

The body of the man who was drowned at Manly on Tuesday night while endeavouring to catch the Burrabra, was identified at the morgue to-day as that of Richard Loseby, a labourer, aged 39 years, whose address is unknown.

THE HOLIDAYS.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

SYDNEY'S BEST EFFORTS.

DINNERS, CONCERTS, CHRISTMAS TREES.

"The poor ye have always with you," said the great Teacher two thousand years ago, and it is in accord with this sentiment that western civilisation, particularly in English-speaking countries, observes Christmas as a season of practical goodwill. Most people who are well enough off to have a Christmas dinner are willing to give a share of it to those in less happy circumstances. This is the sentiment of Dickens' "Christmas Carol," which stands as a type of the western attitude. Whatever the number of the improvident, who take no thought for the morrow, there are always a good number whose poverty is due to misfortune, sickness, or accident to the breadwinner.

It will not be seriously contested that the State is at present passing through a period of prosperity. No large section of the workers is idle-handed as a result of either industrial depression or war. This has undoubtedly lessened the problems of poverty. There are, therefore, not so many families facing an empty larder as has sometimes been the case at Christmas. Nevertheless, there is always an employed class just keeping its head above water, which any wave of misfortune submerges—people who have simply nothing to spend on luxuries. To them there is no possibility of joining in the season's festivities, because a good dinner for them comes under the head of a luxury.

Organised charity in Sydney therefore steps into the breach, and expresses its willingness to dispense the gifts of private benevolence. A chat with those who have the management of the city's leading charities reveals the fact that this year there is less need for aid than has been the case in the past. Mr. J. Sidaby (secretary of the Charity Organisation Society) said that the distress had not been so marked, and that a larger number of organisations was at work than ever. This was borne out by other authorities. Still, the need exists, and is nobly met.

TIGHT HAND ON RUFFIANISM.

NEW POLICE ARRANGEMENTS.

TIMELY WARNING.

"Such police arrangements will have to be made as will prevent beyond doubt the recurrence of the disorderly conduct that prevailed last New Year's Eve. . . There must be no half-measures about it. . . The Inspector-General expects firm and determined action on the part of the police to suppress anything of the kind from the start."

That is part of the instructions given by the Inspector-General of Police to prevent rowdyism on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Inquiries were made yesterday, seeing the end of the year was at hand, to find out whether any precautions were being taken. "I have taken pretty stringent precautions," said Mr. Garvin. "It was ordered that the police when being paraded for duty be instructed that any disorderly or attempted riotous, indecent, insulting, disgraceful conduct, or senseless rowdyism, must be dealt with promptly. I pointed out that the police have ample powers under the recent Police Offences Act to prevent the lighting of bonfires, the use of explosive sticks, magnesium and electric-light sparklers, and fireworks of any kind. They are very dangerous, and the police will not allow them to be carried in the streets. The superintendent in charge of the depot has also been instructed to send mounted police to patrol various parts of the suburbs in order to stop bonfires and rowdyism."

Superintendent Sherwood said he had no fear as to the police being able to control the crowds from the very start. "You see, we have powers specially given us by the new Act which we never had before. A man using a feather tickler, or rattle, or other obnoxious and annoying instruments, may not be guilty of riotous conduct. But under the new Act conduct not only riotous, but 'indecent,' 'offensive,' 'threatening,' or 'insulting' is punishable—and punishable by more than twice as big a fine as before. Making any offensive or insulting noise or gesture, or such disturbance as may frighten horses—all these things we have power to deal with.

"As for the offensive instruments, the new Act deals specially with them. We have been finding out as far as possible what is going forward, and here is one of the most dangerous instruments which we have found. It is a sort of tin fan with a noise like a loud rattle, fit to frighten horses. Immense damage could be done with it by a man half-full of beer. It would slash a cheek open, or cut off an ear or a nose, if carelessly used. It is an exceptionally dangerous implement, and we shall certainly not allow the use of it. We shall have plenty of men to prevent it. Every man that we have is to be on duty that night."

CHRISTMAS TREE.

TREAT FOR POOR CHILDREN.

TWO THOUSAND AT THE TOWN HALL.

Christmas, if it belongs to anyone, belongs to the children. All the associations of the Nativity, and, in keeping with that festival, all the sentiment and practical observance that cluster round it in English-speaking countries, bear out this claim. Children for many centuries have been charmed by the Teutonic legend of Santa Claus, and how intimately the Christmas tree and its associations are interwoven with tradition may be shown by a glance at the pages of Hans Andersen's fairy tales. Here we find in a folklore that is part of the heritage of the Anglo-Saxon the root reason why the English have always made much and taught their children to make much of Christmas. The kindliness which custom prescribes shall rule human relations at the climax festival of the year inevitably chooses children as its prime object.

Now there are thousands of children in every large city to whom, in the ordinary course of things, Christmas must remain a mere name, if even that. Life's realities, its unsatisfied appetites for food, freedom, and festivity, must still continue sharpened to their sense, and none of its memories be softer than the rest. That is, if no influence stepped into supply the deficiency due to the poverty of their parents. Fortunately, in our midst many agencies are at work to brighten the drab days and cheer the friendless hearts. In Sydney the City Mission does its part. Last night it entertained 2000 children at a Christmas tree.

The Town Hall seemed full of children's faces and children's voices. They were never silent and never still. Nominally they were under the charge of different teachers, district by district—here Woolloomooloo, there Glebe, and so on through all the suburbs in which charity finds its most fallow field; in actuality they clambered over chairs and tumbled over companions in their excitement, in the belief evidently that those who got to the front first would have a monopoly of the good things. But there was enough and to spare in the shape of toys and edibles. Each child, as they marched up to the platform in the double line—girls to the left, boys to the right—passed along the loaded tables, and was given a gift. The girl, for example, hugged a small doll to her breast; the boy was no less solicitous over his sailing boat or cricket bat. The burden was then added to by a package of something eatable, and they passed into the corridor to join the increasing throng outside.

The workers had a busy time. From the moment Father Christmas entered with his retinue in an impromptu sleigh to the disappearance of the last child through the door, they were busy collecting the red tickets which the youngsters clutched anxiously and emptying the big baskets of presents. There were humorous incidents, of course. It was novel, if it moved more sober reflection than superficial amusement, to see some little mite whose years might still be numbered upon the fingers of one hand go through the ordeal. Never surely did so many bare feet patter across the platform where Melba sang and some of the world's personages made their complimentary bows. On the whole the majority of the children seemed to have received some extra care as regarded dress from those who sent them. Here came a cripple. The career of a rich crippled child is nothing to envy; but what of the poor? Nor were life's minor tragedies wanting. From very anxiety to preserve their precious coupons, some could not help losing them. Their eyes smarted to tears at the picture of their companions going through without hindrance while they themselves stood aside. But at the end the officials assured inquirers they would be supplied from the surplus. Let us hope that, unlike the newsboy's apple, there was a very substantial core.

Those in charge acted wisely in supplying the children as soon and as quickly as possible. It was after 9 when the last batch had been disposed of, and this, with the time it would take to get home, made the hour late enough for most children. The president of the City Mission (the Rev. George Campbell) was in the chair, which means that he stood on the platform most of the time, beaming benevolence, and seeing that everyone got fair treatment. The secretary (Mr. E. Moore) was at the head of a band of workers of both sexes, which ensured a management without

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which all would be chaos. A number of visitors were in the galleries, and doubtless found the affair a revelation.

During the evening a musical programme was rendered. And when it was all over, the lights that blazed on the big pine trees in front of the organ did not burn more brightly than the smiles of the hundreds of the children to whom the significance of Christmas had just been brought home.

ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE.

On Christmas Day the men of H.M.S. Encounter are giving a concert at the Royal Naval House. For last night, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve there were concerts and sing-songs arranged, with dancing and refreshments.

CHARITIES.

A TON OF PLUM PUDDINGS.

Yesterday and to-day, from a big store in Quay-street, filters a line of people carrying not merely the dinner of Christmas, but their breakfasts, dinners, and teas for a week—or something like it.

The Benevolent Society of New South Wales has its own big stores down there, and as it gives big contracts it is given the very lowest wholesale prices. "What costs us 3s," said the secretary yesterday, "would cost the people themselves at least 6s. The parcel which the average of those whom we shall be helping will take away would be something like this—5 loaves, 8lb flour, 2lb sugar, ½lb tea, 6lb meat, rice, sago, oatmeal, treacle, jam, and milk. They do not all get the same. This is the most thorough of systems. The inspector, with all his experience, finds in a few words what sort of a case it is. And if it be a consumptive, he will mark perhaps a larger allowance of milk on the man's ticket; if there are children, food to suit them.

"Among other things, we shall give over a ton of Christmas plum puddings. They are exactly the same puddings which the firm that makes them sends to its customers—even to Australians in England. All this food is the very best to be had, because from time to time the Government Analyst tests it.

"At the Royal Hospital for Women every baby gets a memento, however young it may be, and the wards are decorated. But for the rest we are giving these presents at our big store and waiting-room on Wednesday and Thursday to about 700 people. The Government gives us £450 for it. Our district is the metropolis. The Government has made grants to about 20 different parts of Sydney, and to each of those councils we send a list of our permanent cases in that district, and ask whether we or they shall deal with them, so that the same case is not helped twice. On Thursday we are giving to strangers recommended to us, on Wednesday to our permanent cases. We regularly help from 200 to 300 sick men, widows with children, deserted wives, and others, and you may reckon 1000 children."

Roman Catholic charity is very vigorous in this season. In connection with St. Mary's Cathedral the two poor schools are making everything as bright as they can for the children and the poor with whom they deal. In connection with St. Joseph's Poor School the Sisters of Mercy are giving a Christmas tree and presents of clothing, and so on, at the Bible Hall, William-street, on Monday, and also on Monday, at St. John's Poor School, there will be a distribution of clothing and other things to the poor by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Kent-street. These distributions are both on Monday. Yesterday and to-day the St. Vincent's Convent in Victoria-street is making special efforts to give the poor a happy Christmas, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is doubling its free gifts both in kind and funds.

The City Mission is one of the most active workers in the cause of charity. This year its secretary reports that he has given out already 1770 5s orders (3s 6d for groceries and 1s 6d for meat), and the number will be materially increased by the time the year is over. Beside the work of the central depot, a good deal will be done in the suburbs in every mission hall under its control. As there are 14 missionaries working under the City Mission, the sum of effort should in this way be considerably augmented. For example, at Chippendale Hall a Christmas tree will be provided by Burwood Congregationalists. At Miller's Point Sunday breakfasts have been a feature for some time, and probably they will be continued on Christmas Sunday. Balmain Congregationalists have already given an entertainment through the local missionary.

Anglican activity among the poor largely flows into the channel known as the "mission zone." This comprises Botany, Waterloo, Alexandria, Surry Hills, Woolloomooloo, and Ultimo, and includes regions to which the term "slums" may more nearly be applied than to any other part of the metropolitan area. The Rev. R. B. S. Hammond, who is one of the chief workers in this zone, has lately made a special appeal for Christmas cheer. As a result goods are coming in, provisions and toys, as well as cash, and these will all be distributed by the workers. Mrs. Hammond recently gave a "grocery tea" in the city, to which money and provisions were brought by benevolent people. Groceries or orders on tradesmen have been distributed in every parish of the mission zone.

The Central Methodist Mission also is doing a big work. For men out of work there are 400 free dinners at various times in the week, and 500 coffee suppers, all at the Conference Hall in Castlereagh-street; for children a Christmas tree at Miller's Point, besides a feast and tree for 30 of them at the Ophthalmic Hospital, Miller's Point; for families in need 400 parcels of groceries distributed by the sisters and evangelists; for members of mothers' meetings a picnic; and for seamen a great spread and concert there was at the Rawson Hall, Miller's Point. The ladies' committees of the Alexandra Home and Dalmar Children's Home are also arranging special treats.

The programme of the Salvation Army included a Christmas dinner, which was given last night in the Temple, Goulburn-street, to 350 adults and 300 children, and a musical and biograph entertainment. The Army is also distributing 450 parcels containing such necessaries as bread, meat, flour, tea, sugar, currants, and raisins.

The Charity Organisation Society applied this year for a Government grant, but was informed that all the money available for the purpose had been allotted. Nevertheless it is giving the usual extra comforts to the poor who are sent to its office by subscribers. Casual applicants, sent by clergymen and non-subscribers, the committee will not be able to assist. Applications for charity satisfied by this agency are usually those of the class which has met with sickness or some similar misfortune. In assisting them, therefore, it is not in danger of clashing with the work of other societies. Last year about 250 were recipients of charity from this organisation, and this time the number should be about the same.

The Y.W.C.A. does not stand on quite the same footing in this matter as some of those mentioned. But the girls who live on the premises, which are really a large home in the true sense of the word for working girls, will find the festive day commemorated by a special dinner. Gifts for the purpose have been provided by a number of committee women. In addition, 3000 large text cards of a neat design have been distributed to factory girls and others who come under the range of influence of the association. These are not handed out mechanically, it is explained, but in a friendly personal way. A large number of book almanacs are in like manner being distributed to members and others.

As befits the reign of kindliness, the children, so far from being forgotten, are very much to the fore in all these preparations. The programme began with a treat given in the Town Hall last night by the City Mission to 2000 little ones. It took the form of a Christmas tree, with Santa Claus in real life to help. There was a distribution of gifts, as well as a musical programme, the leading feature of which was the entry of Father Christmas with his sleigh.

In regard to the Balmain Benevolent Society, its operations have been much reduced owing to the comparative prosperity prevailing in the district, but whatever is necessary will be done by it for the benefit of those who are placed in unfortunate circumstances.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Randwick Asylum, the superintendent reported that during the year 54 children (37 boys, 17 girls) had been admitted; 39 (33 boys, six girls) discharged; number benefited to date, 5302 (3100 boys, 2202 girls); apprenticed, 2177 (1246 boys and 931 girls). The present strength, 202. Dr. Dick said every arrangement was being made for the children to thoroughly enjoy the festive season. The appeal to the public was being successful, and the superintendent was satisfied that the little ones would have a good time. During the holidays they will be taken to places of amusement, and concerts and cinematographs will be enjoyed at the institution. A great feast will be provided for all on Christmas Day.

The annual charity entertainment in aid of the funds of the Willoughby Benevolent Society was held at the Town Hall, Chatswood, on Monday for the purpose of providing Christmas comforts for the poor of the district. In 1903, when the movement began, £12 14s 9d was realised; last year, £23 5s 10d. In all £113 3s 7d has been realised. The Mayor of Willoughby (Alderman G. F. Bailey) is the hon. treasurer, and Mr. A. A. C. Bastian hon. secretary. The programme comprised an amusing musical sketch, entitled "Crazed," by the members of the Histrionic Society, directed by Mr. Harry Leston. The amount realised will be known later, and will be augmented by the Government subsidy.

At the Jersey-road, Woollahra, Congregational School-hall on Friday evening the superintendent and members of the Junior Christian Endeavour Society entertained over 200 poor children of the eastern suburbs. A tea was provided, after which an entertainment was given by the members. A huge Christmas tree was heavily laden with presents, which together with a bag of lollies were given to each child.

Mr. Harry Rickards gave a benefit night at the Tivoli, the proceeds of which will go to provide a dinner for 1000 poor people on Christmas Day. The dinner is to be held, by the kindness of the City Council, in the basement of the Town Hall. Any funds remaining over will be distribtued among the deserving poor in some way not yet decided.

A benefit night was given at the National Amphitheatre some days since for the poor at Christmas. The precise way in which the money shall be distribtued to the poor is at present under consideration.

AT THE HOSPITALS.

At all the hospitals the wards are being decorated, and everything is being done that can be to give those who happen to be there on Christmas Day a bright and happy time. At Sydney Hospital the wards are to be somewhat elaborately decorated. Gifts of certain small luxuries will be given. There will be special Christmas dinners for all those who are able to enjoy them, a Christmas tree for the children, and carols will be sung. The Rev. W. Carr Smith arranges a great part of the Christmas entertainment at the Sydney Hospital.

At Prince Alfred Hospital the wards are to be decorated to some extent in different colours, special ones for each ward. There will be a Christmas tree for the children, plum pudding, cake, and special Christmas cheer for those who are well enough; little gifts of tobacco or tea or such like for the elders, or from the Christmas tree for the children. Carols will be sung in the wards.

At St. Vincent's Hospital the wards will be decorated with flowers, and the patients will be given the very best of fare that can be got for them—"as good a Christmas as we can give them," said one of the sisters.

In fact, the entertainments at almost all the city hospitals are a tree for the children, Christmas fare for all who can be allowed it, and small gifts of food or tobacco for the grown ups.

In the suburban hospitals the usual festivities will be held, as at the Balmain and District Hospital, and at Callan Park Hospital for the Insane, where the wards will be decorated and the ordinary Christmas cheer given to the patients.

MISSION TO SEAMEN.

About 350 seamen from ships in port, and a few out of ships at the present, crowded the concert hall at the Seamen's Institute on Tuesday. There was a long programme of songs, not to speak of some sleight of hand and the Australian Banjo Quintette. There were music and games yesterday. To-day there will be a Christmas tree and a concert; to-morrow a harbour excursion, tea, games, and certain services; on Boxing Day a picnic and a concert, on Sunday services and songs, on Monday games and music, on Tuesday a concert, on Wednesday music and games; on New Year's Eve a concert, supper, and service; and on New Year's Day a picnic and a concert.

OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS.

MESSRS. W. D. AND H. O. WILLS.

A biograph entertainment was given to the female employees of Messrs. W. D. and H. O. Wills (Australia), Ltd., and the Australian Tobacco Company, Ltd., by Mr. George Smith (engineer of Messrs. W. D. and H. O. Wills) on Monday. Illustrated songs, recitations, etc., were given by the employees. The directors and managers were present. The entertainment was held in the dining hall of the factory.

POST AND TELEGRAPH ARRANGEMENTS.

The following arrangements will be observed in the Postal and Electric Telegraph Department during the Christmas holidays:—

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25.

The same arrangements as on Sunday. The mails for despatch on Christmas Day will be made up at this office on the previous day at 9.30 p.m.

BOXING DAY, DECEMBER 26.
AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

The delivery and registration offices will be open 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The stamp sale office will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., after which hour postage stamps will be obtainable at the Telegraph Office (George-street front).

Private boxes will be open as usual, but any boxholder desirous of obtaining access to his letter-box between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. should apply to the constable on duty in the arcade or to the clerk in charge of the telegraph receiving room.

The country mails usually despatched in the afternoon and evening, also the coastwise, interstate, New Zealand, Fiji, and foreign mails will close at 12 noon.

The first delivery only (8 a.m.) will be made by postmen.

The Parcels Office will be open 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Money Order Office will be open 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Chief Telegraph Office will be open as on ordinary days.

Branch offices in the City of Sydney, suburban, and country offices will be open 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and if they do not ordinarily close at 6 p.m., 6 to 8 p.m.

The following offices will remain open for telegraphic business:—Albury, Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Bega, Bourke, Broken Hill, Casino, Cobar, Cootamundra, Cowra, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Forbes, Glen Innes, Goulburn, Grafton, Granville, Hay, Haymarket, Inverell, Junee, Kempsey, Lismore, Lithgow, Moree, Mudgee, Narrabri, Narrandera, Newcastle, Newtown, North Sydney, Orange, Oxford-street, Paddington, Parkes, Parramatta, Petersham, Redfern, Singleton, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Wellington, West Maitland, William-street, Wollongong, and Young as on ordinary days.

The first delivery only will be made by postmen.

The iron pillar receivers and letter-boxes in the city and metropolitan suburbs will be cleared only at the ordinary hours in the morning.

TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS.

A number of additional trains will be run on the Main Suburban Line, extending to Parramatta and intermediate stations, on Christmas Eve, for persons remaining in the City later than on ordinary nights.

On Christmas Day the Workmen's Trains are cancelled, and the Morning Suburban Service is on the lines of the Sunday traffic, with a few additional trains. In the afternoon the ordinary Saturday service is practically run, omitting the business trains from Sydney. So far as the long-distance mail and Express trains are concerned, they will be run as usual.

Shopkeepers, their assistants, and others who have to work late on the Christmas Eve are being catered for by a series of cheap trains to and from the country and tourist resorts late in the evening, while on Christmas Day early excursion trains will be run, and on the favourite river trips and National Park and Como reasonable facilities are being provided.

TRAMWAYS.

On the tramways it is also found necessary on Christmas Eve to have extra cars in traffic. Up to 1.0 p.m. the usual weekday service will be run, while after that hour there will be a number of additional trams as circumstances require. On Christmas Day trams generally used by workmen and for the ordinary business traffic will be cancelled, but the service will nearly approach the ordinary weekday timetable, with additional trams to the seaside resorts where necessary.

NORTH COAST RAILWAY.

WEST MAITLAND, Wednesday.

The contractors for the railway works between Maitland and Dungog were enabled during the past few months to make very satisfactory progress. In all probability plate-laying will be commenced in a couple of months. At present about 900 hands are employed on the works.

Excellent progress is being made with the large steel bridge across the Hunter. The concrete piers and abutments are completed, and one of the large spans of 157ft has been placed in position ready for riveting. The ironwork for the other large span is ready to come forward and will be delivered immediately after Christmas. Preparations are also being made for a start with the bridge over the river at Paterson township, and the overhead wires are up, and most of the plant has been carted to the scene. The bridge will consist of one span of 200ft with two spans 66ft on either side, also a small span 32ft on the Paterson side, and sixteen spans of the same length on the Dungog side.

VETERAN UNDERWRITERS.

ENTERTAINED BY THE PROFESSION.

Mr. J. St. Vincent Welch, who, after 47 years' service, is retiring from the position of resident manager and underwriter of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, and Mr. J. D. Wormald, who for 18 years has been connected as attorney with the Palatine Insurance Company, the agency of which is about to be taken over by, the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency, were yesterday entertained by fellow-members of the profession at the Royal Exchange. The gathering of underwriters was one of the largest that has ever assembled in the city, the whole of the leading offices being represented.

The health of the guests was proposed by Mr. M. T. Sadler, on behalf of the Fire Underwriters' Association, and seconded by Mr. W. A. Gibb, on behalf of the Sydney Marine Underwriters' and Salvage Association, Limited. The toast was supported by Messrs. C. J. Royle, Robt. Kerr, T. M. Tinley, W. H. Rowsell, S. Hague Smith, W. E. Gates, and others.

The interest manifested by Mr. Welch in art and music was alluded to, and it was pointed out that he was one of the founders of the Sydney Liedertafel, and was a trustee of the Sydney Art Gallery.

Mr. Welch was presented with a silver tea and coffee service, while Mr. Wormald received a set of silver entree dishes and a set of carvers.

The health of Mr. H. Wansey, who is succeeding Mr. Welch in the managerial chair of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, was also honoured.

NEW BLUE ANCHOR LINER.

WARATAH DUE THIS MORNING.

A MAMMOTH VESSEL.

At daylight to-day the new steamer Waratah, of 9300 tons—the latest addition to Lund's Blue Anchor fleet—will arrive at Sydney on her maiden voyage from London, via Capetown, with a record number of passengers in both classes.

On arrival she will berth at the Central Wharf at Miller's Point.

The Waratah is classed 100A1 at Lloyd's, and her principal dimensions are—length 480ft, breadth 59ft, and depth 38ft. She is divided into seven watertight compartments, and has a cellular double bottom extending practically the full length. In order to ensure the greatest amount of comfort in heavy seas the vessel is fitted with bilge keels, as are all the other ships of the fleet.

FIRST AND THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS.

The new vessel caters for the conveyance of first and third class passengers. No first saloon cabins are situated lower than the bridge deck, so that passengers are able at practically all times to have their cabin ports or windows open.

On this deck there are 24 cabins, each containing two sleeping berths and a long sofa, fitted with a spring mattress, and there are also two exceptionally large four-berth cabins each with a sofa in addition, suitable for families. At the forward end of the bridge deck is placed the dining saloon, which is a fine apartment, capable of seating 100 passengers, and a large number of the tables are arranged on the restaurant system.

THE FIRST OCEAN NURSERY.

Next to the family cabins on this deck is a good-sized nursery, so that for the first time on steamers trading to Australia, via South Africa, the children will have a place of their own. At the after end of the bridge deck, accessible to both first and third class passengers, is the doctor's surgery and the purser's office. Ascending to the promenade deck there is a large lobby, at the forward end of which is the drawing-room, containing piano, four writing tables, and lounges. This room is lighted by means of large square windows and a dome from the boat deck above, which runs through to the dining saloon below.

COMFORTS FOR TRAVELLERS.

Right at the after end of this deck is a recessed deck lounge, fitted with tables, and here passengers obtain perfect shelter whilst at the same time being able to sit out in the open.

On the after end of the boat deck is a spacious smoking room, panelled in oak, with skylight overhead, and containing writing and card tables, and a bar. Outside this room is another open-air lounge with tables.

The forward end of the boat deck is reserved for passengers, in addition to the promenade deck. On this deck are also arranged the captain's and navigating officers' cabins, and above is the navigating bridge, at a height of about 50ft above sea level.

Every saloon cabin for more than one passenger contains a chest of drawers, a large wardrobe for ladies' dresses, in addition to patent wash-basin, boot-locker, and drawers underneath the sofas.

A LUXURIOUS STEERAGE.

In the after part, situated on the upper and main decks, is accommodation for 300 third-class passengers, in cabins arranged with two, four, six, and eight berths. On the upper deck is a comfortable dining saloon extending the full breadth of the vessel, fitted with revolving chairs, and at the after end of the deck and completely shut off from the cabins are five bathrooms and lavatory accommodation.

Above the upper deck is a promenade reserved exclusively for third-class passengers, and a further promenade is provided on the boat deck overhead. Also on the promenade deck are found the smoking-room and ladies' lounge. A piano is fitted in the dining-room for use of third-class passengers.

THE HOSPITAL.

The Waratah is fitted with ample hospital accommodation. Two or more stewardesses are carried to attend to the requirements of ladies. The ship is lighted by electricity throughout, and all saloon cabins and public apartments are fitted with electric bells.

The steamer is fitted with two sets of quadruple expansion engines, balanced to ensure little or no vibration. They are of great power, capable of driving the ship at a high speed. The most up-to-date refrigerating plant is fitted, so that all on board are provided with fresh provisions, vegetables, fruit, etc, throughout the voyage.

ENORMOUS CARGO SPACE.

The Waratah has close upon 15,000 tons of space for the carriage of coal and general refrigerated cargo, and to deal with this tremendous quantity the ship is fitted with the most perfect appliances, ensuring the quickest possible delivery to merchants.

Commander Ilbery, the commodore of the fleet, is in command.

BUSH FIRES.

SOME FURTHER LOSSES.

FIRE FIGHTERS BAFFLED.

URANA, Wednesday.

During the intense heat and dust storm on Monday a disastrous bush fire broke out on Goonambil Station at 8 a.m.; 14,000 acres of grass on Goonambil were swept. The strong wind carried the flames through Coreen on to Ringwood.

Mr. David Nixon lost 400 acres standing wheat crop and three large stacks of hay; Mr. Leighton lost all his hay and 60 acres of standing wheat; Mr. Jack Hogan lost a considerable area of standing wheat and nearly all his grass; Mr. David Scrivener lost a 25-acre crop and a quantity of grass. The residence of Mr. Walter Whitehead was destroyed, together with the contents.

The flames spread with alarming rapidity, despite the efforts of a great many fire-fighters. At Ringwood, Mr. Robert Box is said to have only saved 16 bags of wheat and a harvester. Rain fell during the afternoon and extinguished the flames.

MAITLAND DISTRICT MINERS.

PROPRIETORS REFUSE CONFERENCE.

SPECIAL COURT DESIRED.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday.

At the meeting of the committee of management of the Miners' Federation to-day a letter was read from the secretary of the Colliery Proprietors' Association as follows:—

With reference to your letters of various dates, requesting a conference with the Proprietors' Association to discuss the curtage rates at Burwood colliery, wheeling at Stanford-Merthyr, East Greta, and other collieries in the Maitland district, the position at the Borehole, wages of first and second class shiftmen and labourers at East Greta, Stanford-Merthyr, and Heddon-Greta, and the question of the agreement to govern the whole of the Maitland collieries, I have to advise you that the Proprietors' Association has asked the Premier to continue the Royal Commission on mining disputes after the Teralba case has been concluded, and to inquire into the rates, wages, and conditions of employment in the Newcastle and Maitland districts. The matters referred to in your letter can be referred to the tribunal, and the proprietors think therefore there is no necessity for a conference, as the matters complained of can be better dealt with in the manner indicated than by a conference.

The committee, after discussing the terms of the letter, carried the following resolution,—"This committee deeply regrets the action of the proprietors in refusing to discuss the many grievances at a number of the collieries in the district."

Another resolution was also carried in reference to the matter, but the secretary when seen afterwards refused to disclose its terms.

YOUNG WALLSEND DISPUTE.

MINERS DECLARED VICTIMISED.

The dispute at the Young Wallsend colliery in reference to the rates to be paid was discussed at the meeting of the committee of management of the Miners' Federation to-day. A report was received stating that as the management had refused to pay yardage rates the men had declined to work, and the mine was idle. A motion was carried declaring the miners victimised, and they were placed on the victimised fund.

MATES' GENEROSITY TO INJURED MAN.

TO HELP HIM OVER CHRISTMAS.

LITHGOW, Wednesday.

A man named John Heapy, employed classing shale at Newnes by a contractor, Mr. Jas. Gant, had the misfortune to drive the point of a tomahawk through his hand between the thumb and first finger. When Heapy's mates knocked off they interviewed Mr. Gant and told him to hand a day's pay over to Heapy, on account of each, to help him over Christmas.

THE GREAT MORNING DRINK.
"MIGHTY ALOK" clears the head and regulates the liver.
Usual or Extra Bitter.
The original famous Kola Nut Tonic.
Insist upon being served with "Alok" (trade mark).—Advt.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CROWDED EXPRESS TRAINS.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

Two interstate express trains had to be run to-day to cope with the exceptional holiday traffic to the eastern States. The first train had on board the team of South Australian bowlers selected to play against Ballarat, Sydney, and Newcastle.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Association to-night, Mr. T. J. Exton was elected president of the association. The membership is now 508, and that of the club 710. The total profit on the year's operations was £2275.

QUEENSLAND.

NEW RAILWAYS.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

It is expected that next month a start will be made with the Dalby-Tarra line approved by Parliament some time ago. A start will also be made with the Clermont-Blair Athol line.

PRICE OF WOLFRAM AND ANTIMONY.

The Minister for Mines received a cable from the Agent-General stating that the price of wolfram is 27s per unit, equal to £94 10s per ton, and that 70 per cent. ore antimony is quoted at £8 per ton; and rutile containing 50 per cent. titanic oxide, 20s per ton.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ALLEGED OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE.

TWO MEN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

PERTH, Wednesday.

At the police court yesterday William Prentice Silverstone and Joseph David Waters were each charged with having, at Perth, on December 10, conspired with another to obstruct the course of justice in an action then pending before the Supreme Court of Western Australia between E. S. King and the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation, Limited. Waters was also separately charged with having on the same date attempted to induce E. S. King, plaintiff in the action, to offer a bribe to a juryman in the action. Both accused were committed for trial.

MASLIN DIVORCE SUIT.

PETITIONER GRANTED DECREE.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

An application was made in the Full Court to-day for a decree nisi in the Maslin divorce case, in which James Frederick Maslin sued for a dissolution of his marriage with Christina Maslin, and named Michael Brown co-respondent.

The Chief Justice, in granting a decree, said he knew of no case in England in which it had been held that, where there had been complete condonation, and since that condonation no breach of the marriage tie by petitioner, petitioner would be disentitled by his lapse from obtaining release. In the circumstances of the present case, on the law as it stood in England, petitioner would be entitled to a decree, and the Court would be flying in the teeth of the carefully-considered local legislation of 1867, and would be guilty of inhumanity, if it were not to grant the relief sought.

SOFT DRINKS ON SUNDAY.

REFRESHMENT-ROOM KEEPER FINED.

WELLINGTON, Wednesday.

Action was recently taken by the United Churches' Association to put a stop to the selling of soft drinks in the town on Sundays, and as a result James H. Rogers, refreshment-room keeper, appeared before Mr. W. Burton Smith, P.M., to answer a charge of Sunday trading. Mr. Kelly appeared for the defendant. Constable O'Reilly gave evidence that on the night of Sunday, December 13, he saw two ladies and a gentleman sitting in defendant's premises, with drinks before them, and when they were leaving he saw the gentleman pay for them. Defendant, when questioned, said that the drinks were "V.G.," a soft drink. In reply to Mr. Kelly, the constable said that the ladies and the gentleman came from an hotel, and that he knew that a chemist sold soft drinks on Sunday. He would not have interfered if the people had been having a cup of tea.

Mr. Kelly, for the defence, quoted the remarks of Mr. Justice Owen in the case ex parte Rogerson, in which the Judge said that the Court should "construe the words 'trading or dealing' in the wide sense of traffic in commodities, and not in the narrower sense which would prohibit necessary purchases or the rational enjoyment of Sunday." He thought that the section should be read as referring to traffic in commodities, and the question was whether a cool drink was "goods, wares, or merchandise." Men like the defendant who made their living by selling soft drinks were prosecuted for selling them on Sunday, but a chemist could sell them and the police could not interfere.

The P.M.: It does seem an anomaly. When the Act was passed it was never anticipated that chemists would sell soft drinks.

Mr. Kelly said it might not have been intended that the section under which defendant was prosecuted should apply to a climate like Wellington. A man could go into an hotel and get a ginger beer, and what remedy was there? He also contended that under the Act of Charles II., victualling houses were exempt from the operation of the section.

The P.M. stated that he would inflict a nominal penalty, but he would not say that he would do so in the future. There was no more harm in selling a soft drink than in selling a cup of tea, but if a person defied the law he would impose a severe penalty. Defendant was fined 1s, with 6s costs.

CASUALTIES.

HOTELKEEPER'S DEATH.

Andrew Henderson, hotelkeeper, in Market-street, city, was found in the smoking-room of his hotel on Monday last in an unconscious condition. He was taken to the Sydney Hospital showing symptoms of carbolic acid poisoning, and died at that institution on Tuesday night. His death has been reported to the coroner, and an inquest will be held.

MORT'S DOCK EMPLOYEE INJURED.

John Hill, living in Surry Hills, employed at Mort's Dock, was struck on the head by a lump of coal while working yesterday. He was taken to the Balmain Hospital, where he was admitted, suffering from a serious injury.

FALL FROM A BALCONY.

Frances James, a little girl, aged 3½, living with her parents in Railway Parade, Erskineville, while climbing on the balcony at her home, fell to the ground beneath, a distance of 15ft. The Civil Ambulance took her to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where she was admitted, suffering from serious injury to the head and face.

FALL FROM A LADDER.

COLLARENDABRI, Wednesday.

Mr. Henry Brasen, carpenter, fell from the top of a ladder, striking his head on a log. He was picked up unconscious, and is now in a precarious state.

A FARMER'S SUICIDE.

WAGGA, Wednesday.

A farmer named William Collins, aged 55, of Malebo, committed suicide in a deliberate manner this morning. His wife remonstrated with him for drinking heavily. He said: "I'll poison myself." No notice was taken of the threat, but a few minutes later Collins lay on his bed remarking that he would be dead in a few minutes, as he had taken strychnine. A near neighbour was called and administered an emetic, but Collins died in a few minutes. Deceased's action is attributed to remorse at having offended his wife while under the influence of liquor, he being, when sober, always very affectionate. He was in comfortable circumstances, and leaves a widow and six children. Deceased came from Tungamah, about 18 months ago, and took up one of the Gobbagumbalin farms.

The deputy coroner held an inquest this afternoon and returned a verdict of suicide whilst the mind was temporarily unhinged.

ACCIDENTS AT LITHGOW.

LITHGOW, Wednesday.

Lance Stevenson, of Kalgurli, near Swashfield, was engaged carting hay, when the horses took fright. In an attempt to catch hold of them he was knocked down and run over, sustaining a fractured thigh.

A young man named Rice, in the Oakey Park pit, while a number of skips were turning a curve, stepped between two to uncouple them, being on the inside of the curve, where the corners of the skips come together closely. The horse stopped at that instant, and his head was jammed. He was struck on the ear, which acted as a buffer and saved a "fracture." He was attended by a doctor, who found him suffering from concussion of the brain.

The infant child of A. N. T. Swann, who was kicked by a horse on Sunday morning, still lies in a critical condition at the Lithgow Hospital.

BE OF GOOD CHEER!
A little Wolfe's Schnapps night and morning does lasting good. It is at once "a drink and a tonic," and goes straight to the places that need help.—Advt.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.—Dec. 23.

Wollowra, s, 2603 tons, Captain H. Brissenden, from Cairns, via ports, and Brisbane. Passengers:—Saloon 54, steerage 18. G. S. Yuill and Co., Limited, agents.

Elraston, s, 4255 tons, Captain Putt, from Java. Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, agents.

Colac, s, 1480 tons, Captain Irvine, from Melbourne. G. S. Yuill and Co., Limited, agents.

Newcastle, s, 1251 tons, Captain Warne, from Newcastle. Newcastle and Hunter River S.S. Company, Limited, agents.

City of Grafton, s, 825 tons, Captain Nelson, from Richmond River. North Coast S. N. Company, Limited, agents.

Tathra, s, 452 tons, Captain Bishop, from Eden and other South Coast ports. Illawarra and South Coast S. N. Company, Limited, agents.

Uralla, s, 97 tons, Captain C. Anderson, from Camden Haven. Allen Taylor and Co., Limited, agents.

Nerong, s, 219 tons, Captain Hine, from Nambucca River. North Coast S.N. Co., Ltd., agents.

Warrimoo, s, 3536 tons, Captain Clift, from Newcastle. F. W. Jackson, agent.

Kooyong, s, 2206 tons, Captain Heddle, from Edithburg. Burns, Philp, and Co., Limited, agents.

Guthrie, s, 2238 tons, Captain Williams, from Newcastle. Burns, Philp, and Co., Limited, agents.

Dorrigo, s, 462 tons, Captain M'Intyre, from Woolgoolga. North Coast S.N. Company, Limited, agents.

DEPARTURES.—Dec. 23.

Darius, s, for Java and Singapore, via ports.
Clan Macintosh, s, for Dunkirk, London, and Antwerp.
Paloona, s, for Hobart.
Mintaro, s, for Cairns, via Newcastle.
Barrier, s, for Melbourne.
Sara, s, for Suva, Fiji.
Victoria, s, for Auckland, N.Z.
Port Augusta, s, for Newcastle.

PROJECTED DEPARTURES.—Dec. 24.

Port Pirie, s, for Dunkirk and Hull, via Suez Canal; Suevic, s, for South Africa, London, and Liverpool, via ports; Bombala, s, and Wollowra, s, for Melbourne; Erina, s, for Gosford and Brisbane Water; Hillmeads, s, for Moruya; Coomonderry, s, for Narooma and Wagonga; Tathra, s, for Eden and ports; Nerong, s, for Nambucca River; City of Grafton, s, for Richmond River; Orara, s, for Byron Bay; Newcastle, s, and Hunter, s, for Newcastle; Kallawatha, s, for Hawkesbury River.

CLEARANCES.—Dec. 23.

Victoria, s, 2969 tons, Captain G. F. Entwistle, for Auckland, N.Z. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Duthie, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Blackbourn and two children, Mr and Mrs. G. T. Shaull and child, Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Mackellar, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Cook, Mesdames Miller, Reeves, J. T. Costley, Head, Entwistle, Misses A. O'Brien, H. Baker, B. Pearce, L. Shipley, Mosman (2), Cummins (2), Head, Entwisle, Cotterall, Page, Williamson-Smith, Clarke, L. Frise, Pickeman, A. Davis, C. Baldwin, Plummer (2), Messrs. J. Anderson, B. Anderson, F. Drake, Hartley, R. Nixon, H. Rose, J. C. Buckingham, B. Reyburn, W. F. Hatfield, Perrett, Capp, L. M'Lachlan, Reeves, Pullin, C. Houison, Sir Rupert Clarke, G. G. Cumming, Captain T. Miller, C. F. E. Kissling, P. Jay, J. Fielding, Main, Stott, L. Cohen, Noble, S. J. Bull, S. J. Bull, jun., Master C. Bull, W. Shipley, W. A. Law, C. H. Noble, J. Spicer, J. Ashburn, N. M'Gill, Master V. Mileon, W. Mooney, R. A. Plant, H. Blaiklock, R. Perham, C. Trussell, M. Meyer, K. Rumkin, A. Migunen, Walters, W. H. Nicholls, J. Walshe, H. C. Just, T. Dyer, A. W. Batiste, Hon. Hugh Mosman, T. Foster, A. C. Cook, S. Deane, P. D. Walker.

Barrier, s, 2036 tons, Captain Hayman, for Melbourne.

Port Augusta, s, 4063 tons, Captain Farmar, for Newcastle.

Paloona, s, 2771 tons, Captain Macbeth, for Hobart.

Hougomont, bq, 2239 tons, Captain M'Millan, for Rotterdam.

ENTERED OUTWARD.—Dec. 23.

Palma, s, for Dunkirk and Liverpool, via Melbourne; Houto, sch, for Wanganui, via Newcastle; Klio, sh, for English Channel.

MOVEMENTS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

The R.M.S. Victoria, from London, bound to Sydney, left Fremantle at 3.50 a.m. yesterday for Melbourne.

The R.M.S. Orotava, from London, bound to Sydney, arrived at Melbourne at 10.50 a.m. yesterday from Adelaide.

The R.M.S. Aorangi, from Sydney, bound to Vancouver, arrived at Brisbane at 10.15 a.m. yesterday.

DEPARTURE OF THE SUEVIC.

The White Star liner Suevic will leave Dalgety's Wharf, Miller's Point, at noon to-day, in commencement of her homeward voyage to the old country. A large number of passengers are booked to Plymouth and London, while the Suevic also carries several for South Africa, in addition to others for Melbourne, and at the latter port many more will embark for overseas destinations. The following is a list of the passengers:—

For Durban: Mr. H. B. Tillidge, Mrs. Sims, Mr. P. Kemp, Mr. R. T. W. Harris, Mr. R. G. Dick, Mr. F. Parker.

For Capetown: Mr. J. C. Watson, Mr. J. P. Curran, Mr. R. Godbold, Mrs. Godbold, Mr. E. Robinson, Mrs. Waymouth.

For London: Miss Manning, Mr. H. S. Vincent, Mrs. Vincent, Mr. R. W. Hawkey, Mrs. Hawkey, the Misses D. and R. Hawkey, Master M. Hawkey, Mrs. and Miss Butlin, Miss Croft, Mr. G. D. Campion, Mrs. Gailey, Miss E. Haray, Mr. G. E. Perry, Mrs. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. C. Delosme, Mr. J. L. Bernstein, Mr. M. Stuckgold, Mrs. Stuckgold, Miss M. J. Joyce, Mrs. Owen, Miss T. O'Brien, Mr. M. E. O'Brien, Miss Kraushaar, Mr. G. Bone, Miss Z. Evans, Rev. G. M. and Mrs. Rice, Mr. R. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Picken, Mr. F. E. Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. B. Lewellyn, Mrs. J. Massy, Mrs. N. Leslie, Mrs. Dakin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Richardson, in addition to passengers for interstate ports.

The principal lines of cargo shipped by the Suevic are:—9500 bales wool, 1000 tons copra, 700 tons copper and lead, 450 tons timber, 1000 tons tallow and oil, 2550 cases meats, 5000 hides, 500 bales skins, 6000 crates rabbits, 45,000 carcases mutton and lamb, and 500 quarters beef.

The balance of the cargo will be loaded at Melbourne, and on leaving that port on 30th inst the Suevic will be a full ship.

OROTAVA DUE TO-MORROW.

Our Melbourne correspondent telegraphed last night:—"It is expected that the R.M.S. Orotava will leave Port Melbourne for Sydney at 2 o'clock on Thursday morning."

She may therefore be expected to reach Sydney early to-morrow afternoon.

HIPPOLAS SAILING ON MONDAY.

The barque Hippolas, which is to load coal at Newcastle for Wellington, N.Z., will be towed to the northern port on Monday.

WARATAH DUE AT DAYLIGHT.

The new Blue Anchor liner Waratah, now on her maiden voyage to Australia, is due at Sydney at daylight to-day, from London, via Capetown and ports. She signalled Gabo at 8 a.m. yesterday, and Green Cape at 9.40 a.m. On arrival she will berth at the Central Wharf, Miller's Point.

FOUR CRAIGS LEAVE NEWCASTLE.

By an extraordinary co-incidence, four of the Craig fleet of sailing vessels were despatched from Newcastle within a few hours of one another yesterday. The barques Jessie Craig, Marjorie Craig, and Joseph Craig left for Auckland, and the barque Hazel Craig for Kaipara.

INVERAN ON THE COAST.

The steamer Inveran, which has been chartered to load wheat at an Australian port for the United Kingdom, signalled Woolgoolga at 2 p.m. yesterday. She is coming to Sydney for docking and will then proceed to Newcastle to load bunker coal for her long voyage.

THISTLEMORE DIRECT FROM SUEZ.

The steamer Thistlemore, now on her first visit to Australia, arrived at Newcastle yesterday from Suez direct. She sailed on Nov. 7, the passage having thus occupied 46 days.

VAN SPILBERGEN DUE TO-MORROW.

The steamer Van Spilbergen, of the fleet of the Royal Dutch Packet Company, left Brisbane at 12.15 a.m. yesterday, in continuation of her voyage from Batavia and Java ports, bound to Sydney. She is due here to-morrow.

THE NONSUCH SIGNALLED.

The new steamer Nonsuch, a vessel of 3826 tons, now on her maiden voyage, and bound from Bombay to Newcastle, and South Australia, signalled Wilson's Promontory at 7 a.m. yesterday.

THE ISLAND STEAMERS.

The departure of the steamer Moresby of Burns, Philp, and Co.'s island line, for the Solomon Islands and Papua, has been postponed until Jan. 8.

The sailing of the steamer Muniara, for the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, has been postponed until Jan. 6.

The steamer Tambo will be despatched from Sydney on the 31st inst for the New Hebrides, via Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

MARIAN MAYFIELD REFLOATED.

The pilot at Forster wired to Sydney yesterday that the tug Marian Mayfield, which went aground on Tuncurry crossing on Tuesday, floated off at 7 o'clock yesterday morning.

THE ESSEX SAILING TO-NIGHT.

It is anticipated that the steamer Essex, of the Federal-Houlder-Shire lines, will be in readiness to be despatched from Sydney to-night for London and Liverpool, via ports. Appended is a list of her passengers:—

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Taylor and 5 children, Nurse Downton, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. J. Farrington and infant, Mr. H. Dawson, Mr. F. Griffiths, Miss E. Bates, Mr. W. Kelliher, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilding and infant, Master R. Wilding, Mr. R. Standley, Mrs. O. Hunter, Mr. F. Smith, Mr. T. R. Morgan, Mr. J. H. Kelton, Mr. T. Trethewey, Miss E. Cox.

YAWATA MARU RETURNING TO-MORROW.

Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., Ltd. (managing agents for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha in Australasia), notify the departure of the Japanese mail steamer Yawata Maru from Melbourne at noon yesterday. She is expected to arrive here early to-morrow morning, and sails for Yokohama, via Brisbane, Townsville, Thursday Island, Manila, Hongkong, and Kobe on Tuesday next, 29th inst.

OVERDUE FROM NEW CALEDONIA.

According to advices received from London yesterday afternoon, sailing ships homeward bound from New Caledonian ports have been somewhat of a feature of late in the reinsurance market, although none of the vessels now on passage have been sufficiently long at sea to warrant alarm. A few weeks ago one of these, the Norwegian ship Derwent, 1890 net tons, arrived at Delaware Breakwater. She sailed from New Caledonia on July 17, and had taken about four months to complete the passage.

Another sailer now quoted as overdue whilst on a voyage from New Caledonia is the iron four-masted ship Lancing, of 2546 net tons, one of the largest sailing vessels flying the Norwegian flag. Like the old four-masted barque Theodor, which was posted "missing" in February last year, the Lancing was originally a British-owned screw steamer.

The Theodor was owned by Messrs. Johan Johanson and Co., of Christiania, who are also the owners of the Lancing, which is far and away the largest sailing vessel in their fleet. Both the Theodor and the Lancing were launched on the Clyde in the sixties by Messrs. R. Napier and Sons. The Lancing has on more than one occasion proved herself a speedy vessel, one of her notably good passages being from Christiania to Melbourne in 75 days.

The Lancing left Nehoue (New Caledonia) on Aug. 12 for Hampton Roads, but, remembering that the Derwent took four months on a similar passage, there would not appear to be much cause for uneasiness. Launched over 40 years ago, the old vessel still retains her 100 A1 classification in Lloyd's register, which is certainly a tribute to the material and workmanship that went to her construction.

THE FOUNDERED PUNT.

The loss of a river punt while being towed from Newcastle to the Richmond River by the steamer Friendship, was reported to the Department of Navigation yesterday by Captain Evans, master of the Friendship. The report says:—"I left Newcastle on the 15th at 11.15 a.m., and cleared Nobby's at 11.30. The sea was slight, and the wind was ENE, and light. Later the wind veered to NW, and increased. The punt was towing well. We passed Cape Hawke at noon next day, and the wind was then increasing and the sea rising fast. I now decided to turn back and run for Port Stephens. A boat was lowered, and I sent the mate and three hands off to the punt to see it all was right on board. When the boat returned they said the punt was full of water, and they could do nothing. I kept on towing. Soon after the boat returned the punt took a list to port, and then capsized. I kept on towing until she sank, and brought the steamer-to. I could do no more, so cut the line and proceeded north. When the punt foundered, Cape Hawke bore SW by W½W, distant two miles."

The Master of the steamer Mokau, which arrived in Sydney on Tuesday from the Tweed River, reported yesterday that he picked up a lifebuoy marked "Conder Ferry," when off Terrigal Head.

HOWARD SMITH COMPANY, LTD.

The Age leaves Newcastle to-day for Wallaroo and Port Pirie. The Burrabool is laid up at Melbourne. The Bombala leaves Sydney for Melbourne this afternoon. The Boveric left Newcastle 20th ult for Apia, Pago Pago, Mulifanua, and San Francisco, due San Francisco Dec. 30. The Bonalgong is laid up at Melbourne. The Purwah leaves Brisbane for Rockhampton on Saturday. The Century left Newcastle for Manila on the 6th inst. The Chillagoe is now discharging at Melbourne. The Cooma leaves Townsville to-day for southern ports. The Cycle left Newcastle for Wallaroo and Port Pirie on the 19th inst. The Era left Port Pirie yesterday for Sydney and Newcastle. The Esmeralda (new steamer for the Warrnambool and Portland trade) is due at Melbourne from Kinghorn in February. The Everic arrived at Auckland from San Francisco, via Apia, on the 19th inst, and left Auckland for Sydney 21st. She is due here 25th inst. The Gabo is laid up at Melbourne. The Gyoroth is now due at San Francisco. The Koonawarra leaves Brisbane on Tuesday for Maryborough and Gladstone. The Lass o' Gowrie is at Townsville. The Lord Sefton left San Francisco on the 18th inst for Auckland and Sydney. The Leura is in the Melbourne, Warrnambool, Portland, M'Donnell Bay, Beachport, Robe, and Kingston trade. The Mourilyan (new twin-screw steamer) leaves Townsville twice weekly for Cairns, via ports. The Myra Fell leaves Port Pirie to-day for Sydney and Newcastle. The Peregrine is due at Sydney from Melbourne about 2 p.m. to-morrow. The Period is discharging coal at Melbourne. The Time leaves Newcastle to-day for Melbourne, Wallaroo, and Port Pirie. The Tyrian is at Melbourne. The Yeddo left Sydney for San Francisco, via Apia, 22nd inst.

HOULDER BROTHERS AND CO.

The directors of Messrs. Houlder Brothers and Co., Limited, in their report for the year ended December 31, 1907, state that after paying the fixed remuneration of the managing directors the profit for 1907 amounted to £23,436 4s 3d. Investments against reserve fund were maintained at their full value, the sum of £442 10s having been charged against the profit to provide for depreciation, and further securities to that extent earmarked.

Continuing the directors remark:—"In a business of this nature it is very unusual to contract bad debts. The continued depression in shipping, however, culminated last year in the failure of a number of shipping firms. In two cases this company has loans outstanding, on security which the directors now anticipate will not be sufficient to meet the loans in full, and they have therefore created a special reserve fund of £10,000 to meet any possible deficiency. After providing for the payment of debenture interest and preference dividend, there remains a sum of £11,838 14s 3d; your directors have considered it prudent further to strengthen the resources of the company, and therefore, instead of proposing that this profit be distributed by way of further remuneration to the managing directors, and dividend on ordinary shares, they recommend that the whole amount be transferred to the general reserves of the company, thereby bringing these reserves, exclusive of the £10,000 mentioned above, up to the substantial figure of £117,828 14s 3d."

The directors further reported that the issue of £50,000 of ordinary share capital (being part of the increase of £100,000 in the capital of the company sanctioned at the extraordinary meetings) was fully subscribed, and the whole sum had now been received by the company.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY'S LINE.

Messrs. G. S. Quill and Co., Ltd., managing agents, have received a cable from Hongkong advising the departure of the Taiyuan for Australian ports at 6 p.m. on the 22nd inst, calling at Manila and Zamboanga. She is due here on January 13, and sails again for the East on January 28.

The Changsha leaves Geelong to-day for Sydney direct (omitting Newcastle). She sails for the East, calling at Queensland, Port Darwin, and usual ports, at 10 a.m. on the 31st inst.

THE MESSAGERIES MARITIMES SUBSIDY.

From letters to hand yesterday from France, it appears that the Marseilles shipping companies have caused a protest to be made in the Budget Committee of the French Chamber of Deputies against the proposed new convention with the Messageries Maritimes, which, as they contend, must lead to the creation of a monopoly. The committee, it is understood, has accordingly suggested certain changes in the convention which will prevent the eventuality to which the Marseilles people object.

BUCKNALL-ELLERMAN COMBINATION.

Advices to hand by yesterday's English mail state that it has been authoritatively notified that the negotiations between Sir John R. Ellerman and the Bucknall steamship lines have been brought to a practical conclusion. On November 18 a circular on the subject was posted to the share and debenture holders, inviting them to approve the result of the negotiations. If this course is adopted it will mean that the whole of the Bucknall lines' steamers will pass to the management of Sir John Ellerman. The vessels at present under his control number 84, and the addition of the 28 vessels belonging to the Bucknall lines will bring his fleet up to a total of 112 modern steamers, with an aggregate of 480,000 tons.

The Bucknall Steamship Lines, Limited, managed by the founders, Messrs. Bucknall Bros., was formed in 1900, with a share and debenture capital of £1,985,000, to take over and extend the British and Colonial Line from London to South and East African ports, established in 1892, for passengers and cargo; also lines between New York and South Africa, New York and Australia and New Zealand, New York and India. A further line was subsequently established between Vancouver and New Zealand ports, under arrangement with the Canadian and New Zealand Governments, and to Persian Gulf ports, via Marseilles. The fleet consists of 28 steamers, totalling 115,290 tons.

It is understood that the existing arrangements as to payment of debenture interest and redemption of bonds provided for in the original trust deed are not to be disturbed.

THE NEW STEAMER WERRIBEE.

Details of the launching ceremony of the new steamer Werribee, which took place on October 26, came to hand a few days ago. The Werribee, a modern cargo boat, was built by the Blyth Shipbuilding and Dry Docks Company, Ltd., Blyth, for Messrs. Huddart, Parker, and Co. Proprietary, Ltd., her principal measurements being: Length, 368ft; beam, 50ft; and depth moulded, 26.4ft. She has a single deck, poop, bridge, and t.g. forecastle, and has been constructed under Lloyd's special survey to class 100 A1.

The Werribee is on the deep frame principle, having clear holds, and has been specially designed for the Australian coal trade. She is rigged as a three-masted schooner. Her deck machinery comprises 10 steam winches and three friction winches, steam windlass, and steam steering gear. A complete electric light installation will be fitted.

Triple-expansion engines will be supplied and fitted by Messrs. Richardsons, Westgarth, and Co., Ltd., Hartlepool. The christening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Cumming, wife of Mr. Cumming, the superintendent. The hull and machinery have been constructed under the supervision of Mr. Wm. Cumming.

LAUNCH OF THE KAPUNDA.

A cable message has been received intimating that the Melbourne S.S. Company's new steamer Kapunda which was successfully launched last month from the shipbuilding yards of Wm Gray and Co., Ltd., at West Hartlepool, sailed on Saturday afternoon last for Melbourne.

The Kapunda is a steel screw passenger steamer, and has been built to the highest class in Lloyd's, her principal dimensions being:—Length over all, 341ft; breadth, 45ft; depth, 23ft 9in. She has a full poop, extra long bridge, and t.g. forecastle, the bulwarks being carried the same height as the bridge, with large doors for taking in cattle and cargo.

There will also be accommodation for first-class passengers, in addition to stewards and stewardesses, in houses on the bridge deck, and for third-class passengers accommodation is made in poop and poop deckhouses, the officers, engineers, and crew being housed in the bridge. The hull is built with deep bulb angle frames, seven water-tight bulkheads, 'tween decks in fore and after main holds, cellular double bottom, and large after-peak tank for water ballast, the whole being available for carrying fresh water to be delivered on deck for stock purposes, a large number of cattle and horses being carried in the 'tween decks.

The vessel will be schooner rigged, having two masts, with derrick tables and outriggers, eight derricks, and one derrick to lift 10 tons. She is designed for a high rate of speed, and is supplied by the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders with their well-known type of triple-expansion engines, having cylinders 25, 41, and 68in., and three steel boilers adapted to work at a pressure of 200lb, in conjunction with Howden's forced draught. The vessel and machinery have been built under the superintendence of Messrs. J. H. Hallett, Pattison, and Co., Cardiff, on behalf of the owners, and the naming ceremony was performed by Mrs. J. H. Hallett. This is the fourth steamer built by Messrs. William Gray and Co., Ltd., for this firm.

THE KOOMBANA LAUNCHED.

Accounts of the ceremony of launching the steamer Koombana from the yards of Alex. Stephen and Son, Limited, Linthouse, on Oct. 2., were received by the last mail.

The Koombana, which has been built to the order of the Adelaide S.S. Company, Ltd., is 340ft in length between perpendiculars, with a beam of 48ft and a depth of 32ft. She has been constructed under the British Corporation shelter deck rules as a passenger and cargo steamer, carrying first and second-class passengers, a large number of cattle, and a considerable amount of general cargo. Her engines, also supplied by the builders, and a set of Babcock and Willcox water-tube boilers will be shipped at Princes Dock.

The refrigerating machinery on board has been supplied by Messrs. J. and E. Hall, Ltd., London. A Clayton fire-extinguishing and disinfecting installation has also been fitted. Seven sets of Welin quadrant davits have been fitted. The vessel was named by Mrs. S. Elgar, of Brisbane, wife of one of the company's superintendents in England.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN S.S. COMPANY'S FLEET.

The Empire arrived at Hongkong Dec. 12 en route from Australian ports to Shanghai and Japan. She leaves Kobe Dec. 29 and Hongkong Jan. 7 for Australian ports, via Timor.

The Eastern sailed from Sydney 19th and Brisbane 21st Dec. for Manila, Hongkong, Shanghai, and Japan, via Queensland ports (calling at Rockhampton and Thursday Island), Port Darwin, and Timor.

The Aldenham sailed from Kobe 1st, Hongkong 11th, and Port Darwin 19th Dec. for Sydney and Melbourne, via Queensland ports. She is due at Sydney Dec. 30.

GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN LINE.

Cable advice has been received stating that the German-Australian Company's steamer Itzehoe left Algoa Bay on the 18th inst in continuance of her voyage from Hamburg to Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and that the steamer Worms, of the same line, left Hamburg on the 19th for Fremantle and Adelaide.

THE NORTHERN REEFS.

The master of the steamer Sherries, which arrived at Newcastle from Singapore on Sunday has reported to the Department of Navigation that the beacon on "E.O." Reef had disappeared, and that of the "Sec" Reef beacon only the centre standard was visible. The navigation authorities at Newcastle telegraphed the intelligence to the Marine Board, Brisbane, and to the head office of the Department of Navigation at Sydney.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LTD.

The Agamemnon is due in Dunkirk about Jan. 30. The Yangtsze is due in Dunkirk about Jan. 2. The Antenor is due in Sydney on 24th. The Tydeus is now in Dunkirk. The Glaucus is due in Dunkirk about Jan. 16. The Stentor is due in Dunkirk about Jan. 12. The Orestes is due in Adelaide about Jan. 7, Melbourne 11th, and Sydney Jan. 15. The Sarpedon left Glasgow on Dec. 12, and is due in Adelaide on Jan. 28, Melbourne Feb. 1, and Sydney Feb. 5.

SAILING VESSELS DUE.

The following sailing vessels are now due at Sydney:—
Bass Rock, bq, from Callao—57 days.
Cambuskenneth, sh, from Hudikswall—112 days.
Dechmont, sh, from London—103 days.
Endymion, sh, from Sundswall—121 days.
Forrest Hall, sh, from Valparaiso—61 days.
General de Sonis, bq, from Port Townsend—61 days.
Inca, 5-m sch, from Ballard—60 days.
James Tuft, 4-m bqtn, from Puget Sound—69 days.
Kaiulani, bq, from Puget Sound—64 days.
Kohala, 4-m bqtn, from Puget Sound—52 days.
Northern Chief, bq, from Kaipara—10 days.
Olympic, 4-m bq, from Puget Sound—68 days.
Puako, 4-m bqtn, from Puget Sound—55 days.
St. Rogatien, bq, from Talcahuano—68 days.
Tamar, sh, from Callao—57 days.

THE BAR HARBOURS.

The following telegrams were received last night regarding the conditions of the bar harbours:—Yamba, bar 17ft 9in, rise 5ft 9in, crossing 15ft 9in, rise 2ft 9in; Bellinger Heads, soundings on bar at high water, 9ft; Tweed Heads, bar 10ft 11in, rise 4ft 7in, crossing 11ft 2in.

TELEGRAPHIC SHIPPING.

THURSDAY ISLAND (2000m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Aldenham, s, for Sydney.

GOODE ISLAND.—Passed: Dec. 22, Alberto Treves, s, bound for Newcastle; Ismailia, s, bound for Calcutta.

COOKTOWN (1550m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Meridier, from Thursday Island.

CAIRNS (1400m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Mourilyan, s, for Cooktown.

TOWNSVILLE (1370m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Wyandra, s, from Sydney; Hopewell, s, from Cooktown.

ROCKHAMPTON (920m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Civility, s, from Bundaberg. Dep: Dec. 23, Allinga, s, for Sydney.

KEPPEL BAY (877m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Cooma, s, for Townsville; Arawatta, s, for Brisbane.

GLADSTONE (838m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Bingera, s, for Brisbane.

MARYBOROUGH (680m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Koonowarra, s, from Brisbane.

BRISBANE (500m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Aorangi, R.M.S., from Sydney. Dep: Dec. 23, Ottensen, s, and Van Spilbergen, s, both for Sydney; Warrego, s, for Burketown.

TWEED HEADS (374m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Rocklily, s, at 4.50 p.m., north.

BYRON BAY (345m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Orara, s, at 10 a.m., for Sydney.

RICHMOND RIVER HEADS (321m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Macleay, s, at 6 p.m., from Sydney. Dep: Dec. 23, Friendship, s, at 7.45 a.m., and Brundah, s, at 8.20 a.m., for Sydney; Rocklily, s, at 8.55 a.m., for Brisbane.

CLARENCE HEADS (296m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Brundah, s, at 10.15 a.m., Friendship, s, at 11.30 a.m., Orara, s, at 2.15 p.m., all south.

WOOLGOOLGA (254m).—Passed: Dec. 23, one of Howard Smith's strs, at 4 p.m., north; Inveran, s, at 2 p.m., one of A.U.S.N. Co.'s strs at 3.10 p.m., both south.

COFF'S HARBOUR (240m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Noorebar, s, at 3 p.m., from Sydney.

BELLINGER (230m).—Dec. 23, Rosedale, s, off bar, too late for tide.

NAMBUCCA HEADS (253m).—Dep.: Dec. 23, Euroka, s, at 7.45 a.m., for Sydney.

SMOKY CAPE (205m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Wodonga, s, at 1.45 p.m., north; a large str with yellow funnel at 1.45 p.m., a large str with black funnel, red band, at 5.40 p.m., both south.

PORT MACQUARIE (174m).—Arr: Dec. 22, Wauchope, s, at 8.20 p.m., from Sydney. Dec. 23, Our Jack, s, at 6 a.m., from Sydney.

TACKING POINT (166m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Burwah, s, at 8.30 a.m., Kallatina, s, at 2.25 p.m., Ramornie, s, at 5.35 p.m., all north; a large cargo str, at 4.25 p.m., Kyogle, s, at 6.10 p.m., both south.

CAMDEN HAVEN HEADS (159m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Commonwealth, s, at 8.3 a.m., from Sydney.

CROWDY HEAD (147m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Euroka, s, at 3.15 p.m., Cavanba, s, at 4 p.m., Bombala, s, at 5.20 p.m., all south.

MANNING HEADS (144m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Astral, s, at 7.37 a.m., Electra, s, at 8.45 a.m., both from Sydney.

CAPE HAWKE (123m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Bellinger, s, at 9.30 a.m., for Sydney, via Newcastle.

SEAL ROCKS (109m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Our Elsie, s, at 10.30 a.m., north.

PORT STEPHENS (83m).—Arr.: Dec. 23, Karuah, s, at 4.40 a.m., from Sydney. Passed: Dec. 23, a ketch, at 6 p.m., north; Stormking, s, at 12.15 p.m., Cooloon, s, and Dorrigo, s, at 1.20 p.m., Bellinger, s, at 5.20 p.m., Myee, s, at 6 p.m., all south.

NEWCASTLE (62m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Thistlemore, s, from Suez; Karuah, s, Archer, s, Barwon, s, Queen Bee, s, Hunter, s, Galava, s, Mintaro, s, Derwent, s, Dorius, s, Solgreen, bq, from Sydney; Age, s, Lady Mildred, s, both from Melbourne; Magdalene, s, and Stormking, both from Port Stephens; Skogstad, s, from Manila; Bellinger, s, from the north; Corio, s, from Adelaide. Dep: Dec. 23, Galava, s, Warrimoo, s, Guthrie, s, Queen Bee, s, Archer, s, Hunter, s, Derwent, s, Bellinger, s, all for Sydney; Ouraka, s, for Melbourne; Kakapo, s, for Devonport; Glamis, bq, for Molendo; Bargany, bq, for Huasco; Karuah, s, and Stormking, s, both for Port Stephens; Joseph Craig, bq, Jessie Craig, bq, Marjorie Craig, bq, all for Auckland; Hazel Craig, bq, for Kaipara; Willirie, s, for the north; New Guinea, s, for Melbourne.

BELLAMBI (41m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Werfa, s, at 3 a.m., from Sydney.

WOLLONGONG (44m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Peterborough, s, at 5.30 a.m., Ruakaka, scow, at 6 a.m., Moruya, s, at 6 p.m., all for the south.

KIAMA (59m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Coomonderry, s, at 3 p.m., from the south; Kiama, s, at 4.30 p.m., from Sydney.

CROOKHAVEN HEADS (74m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Peterborough, s, at 9 a.m., from Sydney.

MORUYA HEADS (141m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Ellerslie, s, at 8.10 a.m., for Sydney.

JERVIS BAY (87m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Kooyong, s, at 10.30 a.m., Ellerslie, s, at 5.5 p.m., both north; a str at 10.15 a.m., Ruakaka, scow, at 4.45 p.m., both south.

EDEN (210m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Eden, s, at 1.30 p.m., for Sydney.

GREEN CAPE (218m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Waratah, s, at 9.40 a.m., Yongala, s, at 2.50 p.m., both north.

GABO (238m).—Passed: Dec. 23, Dilkera, s, at 2.40 p.m., west.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY (426m).—Passed inward: Dec. 23, Arrino, s, at 7.45 p.m. Passed outward: Dec. 23, Nonsuch, s, at 7 a.m., from Bombay, bound to Newcastle; Swazia, s, at 7.5 a.m.

MELBOURNE (576m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Orotava, R.M.S., from London; Wyandra, s, from Cairns, via Sydney; Augsburg, s, from Hamburg; Toroa, s, from Stanley; Ashmore, Norwegian bq, from Wellington; Wareatea, s, from Launceston. Dep: Dec. 23, Peregrine, s, for Townsville, via Sydney; Loongana, s, for Launceston; Yawata Maru, J.M.S., for Japan, via Sydney; Riverina, s, for Fremantle; Antenor, s, and Lothringen, s, both for Sydney; Changsha, s, for Hongkong, via Sydney; English Monarch, s, for Dunkirk; Christian Nicholsen, s, for Adelaide.

ULVERSTONE.—Arr: Dec. 23, Hawk, ktch, at 11 a.m., from Melbourne.

LAUNCESTON (509m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Wahatipu, s, at 3 p.m., for Sydney.

BURNIE (519m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Rotomahana, s, at 4.50 a.m., from Melbourne; Capella, ktch, at 9.20 a.m., from Adelaide; Karitane, s, at 9.50 a.m., from Sydney.

HOBART (648m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Tainui, s, for New Zealand; Doris, ktch, for Melbourne.

ADELAIDE (1084m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Hobart, s, and Grantala, s, both from Fremantle. Dep: Dec. 23, Geelong, s, for London, via Capetown; Magdeburg, s, for Antwerp and Hamburg, Dorset, s, for the eastern States.

PORT PIRIE (1236m).—Dep: Dec. 23, Kadina, s, and Era, s, both for Sydney; Clan Sutherland, s, for Port Kembla.

ALBANY (2000m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Governor Musgrave, s, but no dredge, at 7.15 a.m., from Adelaide; Kyarra, s, at 4 a.m., from the eastern States. Dep: Dec. 23, Kyarra, s, at 8.40 a.m., for Fremantle.

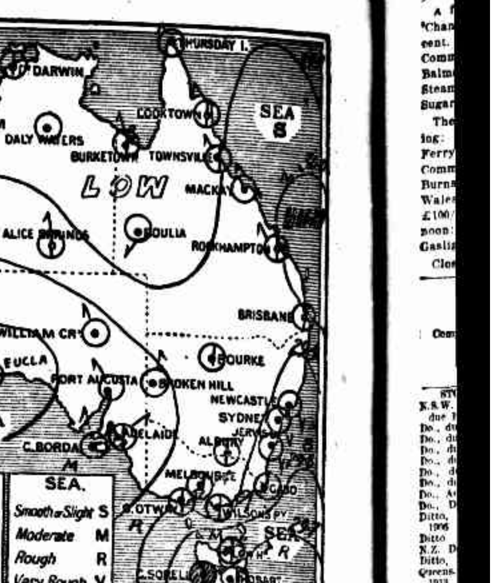
FREMANTLE (2466m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Kratos, s, at 7.10 p.m., from the Baltic. Dep: Dec. 23, Victoria, R.M.S., at 3.50 a.m., for Sydney, via Adelaide and Melbourne.

NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING.

WELLINGTON (1220m).—Arr: Dec. 23, Maheno, s, from Sydney. Dep: Dec. 23, Ngahere, s, for [illegible].

AUSTRALIAN WEATHER.

THE "HERALD" MAP.



Little or no change has taken place in pressure distribution during the past 24 hours. The centre of the low pressure is still to the SE of Tasmania, and that of the high over the Great Bight. The monsoonal dip is also shown over the western district of Queensland.

Ocean Forecast.—Fresh to strong and squally winds over the Straits and Tasmanian coast; but moderating.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS.

Commonwealth Weather Bureau, Wednesday.

Sydney rainfall, average for 49 years, 49.34 inches.

Average rainfall for 50 years from January 1 to end of November, 4741 points.

Total rainfall from January 1, 1908, to date, 4401 points.

Total for corresponding period of 1907, 3060 points.

Barometer.—At 9 a.m., 29.889; at 3 p.m., 29.773; at 9 p.m., 29.951.

Temperature.—At 9 a.m., 74.9; at 3 p.m., 78.9; at 9 p.m., 68.9.

Humidity.—At 9 a.m., 67; at 3 p.m., 65; at 9 p.m., 78.

Wind.—Greatest velocity, 47.6 miles from south south-west, at 8.40 p.m.

RAINFALL REGISTRATIONS.

New South Wales (for the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m.).—Blackville 1 point, Manning Heads 40, Mungindi 32, Pine Ridge 2, Port Macquarie 5, Quirindi 12.

QUEENSLAND RAINFALL.

The following rainfalls in Queensland were registered during the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m. to-day:—

Northern Division: Burketown 50 points, Cumberland 3, Camooweal 6, Cloncurry 78, Donaldson 24, Floraville 50, Geraldton 2, Georgetown 13, Kurumba 4, Kuranda 11, Normanton 46, Port Douglas 5, Richmond 10, West Leichhardt 49.

Central Division: Tambo 33 points.

Southern Division: Adavale 22 points.

RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION.

New South Wales (for the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m.).—Light to moderate showers recorded at six stations in the north-east.

Victoria.—Light rain recorded in coastal and south-western districts.

South Australia.—Light rain recorded on Mount Lofty and on the coast.

Western Australia.—Light to moderate rain recorded in tropics and few places in the extreme south-west.

Queensland.—Light to moderate, with thunderstorms in north-west quarter and at two places in central interior and one or two places on the north-east coast.

CONDITIONS AT 9 A.M.

New South Wales.—Fine weather ruled throughout.

Victoria.—Fine but cloudy inland, overcast to showery in coastal districts.

South Australia.—Generally cloudy south of Burra, gloomy and squally in extreme south-east, otherwise fine and pleasant.

Western Australia.—Fine but cloudy to overcast in extreme south-west and in tropics, fine and clear elsewhere.

Queensland.—Chiefly fine and clear in the interior, cloudy in coastal districts and far north.

Tasmania.—Showery or threatening in north-east.

BAROMETERS AT 9 A.M.

Geraldton 29.96, Perth 30.02, Esperance Bay 30.16, Eucla 30.10, Streaky Bay 30.13, Adelaide 30.08, Portland 29.10, Melbourne 29.94, Wilson's Promontory 29.91, Gabo Island 29.82, Cape St. George 29.84, Newcastle 29.90, Port Macquarie 29.91, Clarence Heads 29.94, Brisbane 29.89, Rockhampton 29.90, Mackay 29.95, Cooktown 29.83.

RIVER REPORTS.

The heights above summer level of the inland rivers at 9 a.m. on Wednesday were as follow:—Albury, 11in; Balranald, 2ft; Bingara, 1; Bourke, 3ft 8in, r; Brewarrina, 7ft 8in; Collarenebri, 1; Condobolin, 1; Cowra, 9in; Dubbo, 1; Euabalong, 7in; Euston, 2ft 4in; Goodooga, 1; Gundagai, 9in; Gunnedah, 1; Hillston, stopped running; Kunopia, 1; Louth, 6ft 3in, r; Manilla, 1; Menindie, 1ft 5in; Moama, 9ft 2in; Mogil Mogil, 1; Moulamein, 1ft 8in; Mungindi, 3ft 10in, f; Narrandera, 4ft 11in; Pooncarie, 3ft 4in; Tilpa, 4ft 3in, r; Wagga Wagga, 1ft 9in; Wentworth, 4ft; Wilcannia, 3ft 8in, r; Yetman, 1; Barwon River at Walgett, 17ft 4in, r; Namoi River at Walgett, 12ft 9in, r; Boggabilla, 1in, f.

Note.—R, rising; f, falling; 1, low.

TEMPERATURES.

Sydney (for the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m.).—Maximum 82, minimum 64; Perth, 81, 64; Adelaide, 75, 61; Melbourne, 79, 60; Brisbane, 87, 69; Hobart, 60, 51.

COASTAL REPORTS AT 9 P.M.

Tweed Heads, NW, fresh, hazy, sea moderate; Byron Bay, NE, fresh, cloudy, sea smooth; Ballina, NE, fresh, cloudy, sea smooth; Clarence Heads, NE, fresh, cloudy, sea smooth; Woolgoolga, NE, light, thunderstorm, sea smooth; Port Macquarie, NE, moderate, cloudy, sea smooth; Manning Heads, NE, light, fine, sea smooth; Seal Rocks, NE, light, hazy, sea smooth; Port Stephens, NE, light, fine, sea smooth; Newcastle, ESE, moderate, fine, sea smooth; Lake Macquarie Heads, SE, light, fine, sea smooth; Catherine Hill Bay, SE, light, fine, sea smooth; Barranjoey, NE, fresh, fine, sea smooth; South Head, S, fresh, cloudy, sea slight; Wollongong, S, strong, cloudy, sea smooth; Kiama, S, fresh, gale, cloudy, sea smooth; Crookhaven Heads, S, strong, squally, fine, sea slight; Jervis Bay, SSE, fresh, gale, squally, cloudy, sea rising; Ulladulla, S, strong, gale, cloudy, sea rising; Bateman's Bay, S, squally, cloudy, sea moderate; Moruya, S, fresh, cloudy, sea moderate; Eden, S, fresh, cloudy, sea moderate; Green Cape, S, fresh, cloudy, squally, sea moderate; Gabo Island, SSW, fresh, cloudy, squally, sea moderate.

FORECASTS AT 9 A.M.

New South Wales.—Some showers likely on the south coast, and also in the north-east, associated with thunder; otherwise chiefly fine; southerly winds, rough sea on the south coast.

Western Australia.—South of the tropics weather fine for the present, and warm to hot, with southerly winds, but tending to become cloudy on the south-west coast; further thunderstorms in the tropics.

South Australia.—Fine and cool generally; scattered clouds in the south, but temperatures rising on the west coast; south-westerly and south-easterly winds.

Queensland.—Further scattered thunderstorms in central districts from the Gulf to the south-east; cloudy on the coast; showery in the tropics; south-easterly and north-easterly winds.

Victoria.—Cloudy more or less over southern districts, with some scattered showers on the coast; cool westerly and south-westerly winds, squally in the Straits.

Tasmania.—Cloudy, squally, and showery, with westerly and south-westerly winds, but moderating, and becoming finer.

ASTRONOMICAL MEMORANDA FOR DEC. 24.

Sun rises at 4.41, sets at 7.6; Moon, 5.20 a.m., 7.40 p.m.; Mercury, 4.30 a.m., 7.10 p.m.; Venus, 2.50 a.m., 4.41 p.m.; Mars, 2.2 a.m., 3.42 p.m.; Jupiter, 11.4 p.m., 10.33 a.m.; Saturn, 11.55 a.m., 12.7 a.m.

High Water at Fort Denison, 8.43 a.m. and [illegible] p.m.

Full Moon, January 7 at 12.13 a.m.

THE MAILS.

THIS DAY.

South Australia.—Overland, 5.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.
Victoria.—Overland, 5.30, 8, and 9.30 p.m.
Queensland.—Overland, 2.45 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.
Eden.—Eden, 9 a.m.
Butaritari (Gilbert Islands).—Loongana, 11 a.m.
Ballina, Broadwater, and Wardell (R.R.).—City of Grafton, 1 p.m.
Nambucca Heads and Mackaville.—Nerong, 4 p.m.
Western Australia, via Adelaide and Albany.—Riverina, 5.30 p.m.
Tasmania, via Melbourne.—Loongana, 5.30 p.m.
Tasmania, via Melbourne.—Wareatea, 8 p.m.
Wellington, etc., N.Z. (direct).—Warrimoo, 8 p.m.
Monte Video, Buenos Ayres, Chili, and Rio Janeiro.—Warrimoo, and Arawa, from Wellington, N.Z., 8 p.m.
Raratonga and Tahiti (Papeete).—Warrimoo, and Manapouri, from Wellington, N.Z., 8 p.m.
San Francisco.—Mariposa, from Papeete, 8 p.m.
Byron Bay.—Orara, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY.

Same arrangements as on Sundays.

NEWCASTLE.

COAL AND OTHER EXPORTS.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday.

The following vessels cleared at the Customs-house to-day:—New Guinea, s, for Melbourne, with 3400 tons of coal; Nurnberg, s, for Callao, with 1845 tons of coal; Warrimoo, s, for Wellington, via Sydney, with 1200 tons of coal, 40 tons of coke, and a quantity of timber; Melbourne, s, for Melbourne, with 2400 tons of coal; Knight of the Garter, s, for United Kingdom, via Melbourne, with 928 tons of coal; Mintaro, s, for Cairns, via Queensland, with 1630 tons of coal; Nardoo, s, for Adelaide, with 4750 tons of coal; Skerries, s, for the United Kingdom, via Port Pirie, with 1005 tons of coal; Linda Fell, s, for Port Pirie, via Sydney, with 2700 tons of coal; Corio, s, for Adelaide, with 3300 tons of coal; Barwon, s, for Melbourne, with 4700 tons of coal, 148 rolls of bags, and 24 bundles of bags; Louisa Craig, bq, for Auckland, with 1022 tons of coal.

MINERS' FEDERATION.

The result of the ballot which has been taken during the past week for the election of officials of the Miners' Federation was announced to-day, the final returns having come to hand yesterday. The returns show that the old officers have been re-elected. For the position of president Mr. Peter Bowling, the retiring president, was opposed by Mr. J. Patterson. The former secured 3118 votes, and the later 3025. Mr. J. M'Williams was re-elected vice-president by 3200 votes to 1273 secured by his closest competitor, Mr. A. Biggers. Mr. W. Brennan was re-elected secretary by a large majority, and Messrs. A. Lewis, E. Williams, and B. Rees were also elected to the respective positions of treasurer, district check inspector, and auditor by substantial majorities.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

A fair amount of business was effected on 'Change yesterday. New South Wales 4 per cent. Funded Stock, due 1912, eased 5/, and Commercial Banking Company of Sydney 2/6. Balmain New Ferry rose /6, North Coast Steam /6, Toohey's Brewery /3, and Colonial Sugar 5/, other sales being at late rates.

The following sales were reported:—Morning: Toohey's, Limited, 12/6; New Balmain Ferry, 38/6; Colonial Sugar Refining, £43/5/; Commercial Banking Company, £27/10/; Burns, Philp, and Co., paid, 42/; New South Wales 4 per cent. Funded Stock, 1912, £100/10/; North Coast Steam, 25/6. Afternoon: Port Jackson Steam, 37/; Australian Gaslight (new), £11/5/; Tooth and Co., 42/.

Closing quotations were:—

Company.	Amount of Shares.	Shares paid up.	Last Div. Per Annum.	Last Sale.	Buyer.	Seller.	Yield to Investor.*
STOCK.							
N.S.W. F.S.	..	..	3	85	84	..	3½
due 1912	..	..	3½	98	..	99	3½
Do., due 1912	..	..	4	100/15/	..	101	3¼
Do., due 1913	..	..	3½	98/10/	98	99¼	3½
Do., due 1918	..	..	3½	98/10/	99	99½	3½
Do., due 1921	..	..	3	..	90	..	..
Do., due 1924-5	..	..	4	100	100	..	4
Do., due 1909	..	..	4	110	108	110	3¾
Do., Act, 1873	..	..	4	..	100	..	4
Do., Deb., 1909	..	..	3½	100	99¾	99¾	3½
Ditto, T. Bills, 1906	..	..	4	100¼	100	100¼	3¾
Ditto	..	..	4	101	..	..	3¾
N.Z. Deb., 1913	..	..	4	101	100	102	3¾
Ditto, 1921	..	..	4	101/10/	..	..	3¾
Queens. Deb., 1913	..	..	4	101	100	..	4
Do., Tr. Bills	..	..	4	101	..	..	3¾
W.A. Inscr	..	..	3½	..	..	..	..
Ditto, 1902	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australian Gas Deb., 1922	..	..	4	102	101	103	3¾
City Syd. Deb.	..	..	4	102	..	103	3¾
Col. Sug. D., 1914	..	..	5	108	107	110	4½
BANKS.							
Australasia	40	40	14	108	107	..	5¼
City	10	8	3	60/	55/	60/	5
Ditto (new)	10	8	3	57/6	..	57/6	8½
Com. of Syd.	25	12½	10	27/10/	27¾	27¾	4½
C. Syd. (new)	25	12	..	27/3/9	27¼	..	..
Commercial of Australia	10/	10/	..	10/	10/	..	..
Do., pref.	10	10	3	5/12/	5¼	..	5¼
N.S.W.	20	20	10	45/12/6	45¾	45¾	4½
N. Zealand‡‡	6⅔	3⅓	10	8/10/	8⅝	8⅞	4
N. Queensland	7	2	4	33/6	35/	..	4½
National of Australasia	8	5	5	94/	95/	96/	5¼
Ditto, pref.	10	10	5	11/4/	11¼	..	4¼
Q'land National	5	2	..	22/6	..	20/	..
Royal of Q.	9	6¾	4½	4/17/	97/6	99/6	5
Union	75	25	14	66/7/6	62¼	63	5¼
DEPOSITS.							
A.J.S. Bank—							
Class B	..	..	3	10/6	11/	11/6	4½
Class B., 1912	..	..	3	13/	12/	..	5½
Class B., 1917	..	..	3	10/3	10/	..	..
Ditto, Inscr.	..	..	3½	10/6	10/3	..	..
Com. of Aus., Assets	..	..	3	17/6	17/6	..	5¾
E. S. and A. Deb.	..	..	4	18/3	18/	18/6	4½
Ditto, pref.	..	..	3	12/2	12/6	..	4½
Ditto, def.	..	..	4½	18/2	18/	18/6	4½
Q. Nat.*	..	..	3½	16/7	16/6	17/	4½
STEAM.							
Balmain Ferry	1	1	10	38/6	38/	39/	5¼
Howard Smith	1	1	15	40/3	44/3	45/	7¾
Ditto	1	5/	15	18/	25/	..	4
Pref.	1	1	5	21/2	20/9	21/6	4½
Ditto	1	5/	5	5/	5/	..	5
Illawarra	1	15/	..	18/	..	19/6	..
Newcastle	1	1	6	23/3	22/6	..	5
North Coast	1	17/6	8	25/6	25/3	26/	5½
Port Jackson	1	15/	8	37/	37/	37/6	3¼
Syd. Ferries	1	1	10	60/	60/	62/6	3¼
Ditto	1	1	10	..	..	..	..
INSURANCE.							
A. M. Fire	1	15/	14	42/6	43/	45/	5
Col. Mut. Fire‡‡	1	1	20½	55/	..	53/	7¼
Mer. Mutual	1	6	14½	17/	16/9	17/	5¼
New Zealand	10	2	15	73/	74/	..	8¼
Queensland‡‡	1	10/	8	17/	16/9	17/6	4½
United	10	2½	12½	5/10/	5¼	5¼	5¼
COAL.							
Bellambi	1	1	17½	46/	45/	46/	7¾
East Greta	1	1	10	27/6	27/6	..	7¼
Hedden Greta	1	1	..	5/	4/9	..	..
Hetton	5	5	6	62/6	63/	..	9½
Metrop., ord.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	1	8	22/	10/6	..	7¼
Ditto, pref., 2	1	1	10	14/	13/	..	4½
Mt. Kembla	10	10	..	25	25	..	..
Newcastle	11	10	5	6/5/	6	6¼	9
North Bulli	1	1	10	31/	..	31/	6½
South Greta	10/	10/	..	13/10½	13/	..	..
Brockton	1	1	..	5/	..	..	..
Ditto, new	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Vale of Clwydd	1	1	10	24/6	..	..	8¼
Wallsend	10	10	20/	25¼	25¼	26¼	7¾
Waratah	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wickham and Bullock Is.	1	20	..	6/2	7/	..	..
Ditto, new	1	18/	..	4/6	5/	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	1	..	22/	20/	22/	..
GAS.							
Albury	1	12/6	10	21/6	21/	..	5¾
Australian	6	6	15	19/2/6	19	19½	4½
Ditto, new	6	3	15	11/5/	11	11¼	3¾
Char. Towers	10/	10/	10/	14/9	..	..	6¾
Goulburn	1	1	8	61/	..	..	5¼
Grafton	1	1	8	32/3	31/	..	5
Katoomba and Leura	1	1	..	24/	23/3	24/	..
Maitland‡‡	5	5	7	..	7½	..	5½
Manly	1	1	9	42/6	..	..	4½
Ditto, new	1	5/	9	23/	..	25/	..
Mudgee	1	1	7	24/	..	..	6¼
Newcastle	2	2	15	6½	6¼	6¾	4½
North Shore	1	1	8	45/	..	46/	3½
BREWERIES.							
C. and Wood Bros.	1	1	4	10/3	9/	10/	7¾
Perkins'	15/	15/	20	36/	..	36/	8¼
Toohey's	16/	16/	5	12/6	12/3	13/	6¼
Tooth's	1	1	10	42/	41/9	42/3	5
MISCEL'N'S.							
Aarons'	15/	10/	5	3/0	..	..	13¼
A. Taylor Co.	1	1	10	24/3	..	..	8¼
Aust. Hat Mills	1	1	..	..	24/	30/	..
Aust. News	1	1	..	12/6	12/	..	..
B. H. W. Sup.	15/	15/	10	22/9	22/6	..	6½
Burns, Philp	1	1	10	42/	42/	42/6	4¾
Do., new issue	1	10/	10	21/6	21/	..	4½
Col. Sugar	20	20	10	43/5/	43¼	44	4½
Dalgety & Co.‡‡	20	5	7	6/9/	..	6¼	5¼
Dunlop Pneu. Tyre, pref.	1	1	7	31/	..	..	4½
Emu B. Rail.	1	1	..	4/10½	..	..	..
Ditto, pref., B	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Emu and Pros. Gravel	1	10/	6¼	12/3	12/	..	5¼
F. Food, Ice	12/	10/	8	11/9	11/9	12/6	7
Goodlet and Smith	15/	15/	8	17/	16/9	17/	7
H. M'Kenzie, ord.	1	1	..	22/	22/	22/	..
Ditto, pref.	1	1	..	22/6	21/	..	..
Hotel Metropole	..	20	6	25/	..	..	4½
Ditto, pref	1	10/	15/	..	22/	..	..
Marcus Clark, ord.‡‡	1	1	8	20/9	..	23/	7¾
Ditto, pref.	10	10	6	10/3/	..	..	6
Melb. Tram	1	10	..	39/1½	38/6	..	..
Mont de Piete	1	1	10	38/	38/	38/6	5¼
Mort's Dock	1	1	6	20/	19/6	..	6
Ditto, pref.	1	1	6	23/6	22/6	..	5¼
Paul and Gray	1	1	17½	30/3	29/6	31/	11¼
Perm. Trust	5	2/6	10	5/	5/	5/3	5
Perpetual Trust	10	5	10	12/	12/	14/	4¼
Pitt, Son, and Badgery	1	11/	10	16/	14/	..	7
Q'sland Meat Ex. and Agy.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Richardson and Wrench	1	1	5	14/	13/6	14/6	7
E. Rich and Co.	1	1	5	14/6	..	..	6¾
Silv. Tramsl‡‡	1	1	40	87/	88/	90/	9¼
Syd. Cyclorama	1	1	5	15/6	..	20/	6¼
Syd. Exchange	10	10	6	12/2/6	12	..	5
Syd. Hyd.	1	1	10	29/	28/	30/	7
Ditto, con.	1	10/	10	15/	14/	15/	6¾
Syd. Hyd. and G. E.	1	15/	15	26/9	..	26/6	8¼
W. H. Soul, Patt., and C.	1	1	10	47/	46/	..	4¼
LAND and BD.							
Con. B. and L.	10	10	..	2/6	..	2/6	..
Ind. Prov.	10	20	6	19	19	..	6¼
Interc. Inv.	1	15/	12½	28/6	27/6	..	6¼
Newc. B. and L.	..	..	6	..	20/	..	..
Syd. Free L.	..	6/7	20	3	..	..	..

† Where dividends are interim the yield is based on a year's distribution, otherwise on the last half-yearly div. ‡‡ Ex dividend. ** Ex interest. § Call paid. ¶ Ex rights. Z. London delivery. M. 6 months. * Plus annual payments of 16/8 per cent.

INTERSTATE EXCHANGES.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

Quotations: National Bank, s 19/3; Queensland 3½ per cent. loan, s £100.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

To-day's Exchange sales were: Victorian 4 per cent., 1923, £103/5/; ditto, 3 per cent. stock, 1917, £87/2/6; Commercial Bank, pref., £5/12/6, £5/12/; Metropolitan Gas, £10/17/; Melbourne Tram, 40/; Silverton Tram, 80/6; Howard Smith (20/ paid), 44/; Iron and Steel, £5/5/.

FINANCIAL.

UNIVERSAL TRADE DECLINE.

Oversea imports into this State for the first 11 months of the current year declined by £714,533, while exports were reduced by £5,972,687, or over 20 per cent. The shrinkage in the trade of the Commonwealth has been equally marked. But it is not Australia only that has exhibited a decline in her trade; all the great commercial countries show shrinkages. This can readily be noted from the following table:—

Country.	Imports Nine Months. 1908.	Decrease on 1907.	Decrease per cent.
	£	£	%
Germany	300,651,000	20,001,000	6.2
Belgium	109,082,000	7,495,000	6.9
France	179,140,000	3,461,000	1.8
United States	105,285,000	64,258,000	27.9
United Kingdom	378,084,000	24,802,000	6.1
Australia	37,230,719	697,271	1.8

It will be noticed that the United States has been heavily hit during the period, no doubt owing to the financial crisis, while France and Australia suffered the smallest decrease. The export figures are as follows:—

Country.	Exports for nine months. 1908.	Decrease on 1907.	Decrease per cent.
	£	£	%
Germany	245,873,000	3,564,000	1.0
Belgium	75,958,000	2,341,000	2.9
France	155,335,000	9,925,000	6.0
United States	252,587,000	20,241,000	7.4
United Kingdom	285,663,000	33,518,000	10.5
Australia	41,567,365	5,051,510	1.2

The full severity of the trade depression experienced in the United Kingdom is seen in the above comparison, the extent of the decline in her export trade being greater than that for any other country in the list. In the face of the general decrease, Germany makes the best showing in exports, this trade having only fallen off by 1 per cent, while Australia follows closely on her heels. Taking the two sets of figures together, those relating to imports with those relating to exports, the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that Australia passed through the ordeal of comparison very satisfactorily.

LIFE ASSURANCE PROFITS.

The average policy-holder has but a faint idea of how it is that his assurance society can afford to cover his life and then years afterwards pay him back in many cases much more money than he has handed it by way of premium. In a dim way he knows that these societies lend out money on mortgage, but this does not appear to be a full explanation. Nor is it. Mr. C. H. L. Catchlove, F.I.A., F.F.A., recently gave the Actuarial Society of New South Wales the results of "an inquiry into the sources of profit of a life assurance company." As pointed out, in actual practice it is usually found that the mortality experienced is more favourable than that of the basis, that the rate of interest realised is greater than that assured, and that the expenses are less than those allowed for. The main sources of profit therefore are:—

(1) Profit from mortality.
(2) Profit from interest.
(3) Profit from loading.
(4) Profit from miscellaneous sources.

The chief sources of miscellaneous profit are cash surrenders, lapses (surrender value exhausted by debt), lapses (assurances possessing no surrender value), bonuses taken in cash, profit on investments, fines and fees, and from the non-participating business. It may be argued theoretically, however, that no profit arises from surrenders, lapses, and cash bonuses on the ground that the difference between the reserve held and the amount allowed is the premium for the selection made against the company, as well as for the expense of replacing on the books the amount of assurance dropped.

PROFITS FROM MORTALITY.

The three great sources of profit may be discussed in turn. The first is that arising from mortality. When a claim arises, the strain on the company's funds is not the sum assured, but the sum assured reduced by the amount of the reserve held. Taking the total deaths claims expected by the mortality table used, and deducting their respective reserves there results what is called the expected death strain. Taking the actual death claims and deducting the reserves held against such assurances, we have the actual death strain. The excess or defect of the expected as compared with the actual death strain is the profit or loss that results to an office through mortality. From the above it is evident that the profit from mortality depends upon the incidence of the claims, the class of risk, and its duration. Where the reserves are large, the mortality profit is small—it is, accordingly, really on old risks and endowment assurances. Where the reserves, however, are small, the scope for profit is large; for example, on assurances of recent standing, short term, and contingent assurances. This emphasises the necessity for the exercise of great care in the original selection of risks, seeing that the young assurances affect the profits from mortality more than the older ones. With the growing age of the business, the profit from mortality therefore diminishes.

PROFIT FROM INTEREST.

Then there is that other source of profit which arises from excess of interest earned over that assumed. In the valuation, as Mr. Catchlove points out, it is assumed that a certain rate of interest will be earned on the funds, but, in actual practice, the interest received is usually greater—such excess is therefore profit. Seeing that the individual reserve is the measure of this profit, it appears that in the case of the recent assurances and in those cases where the reserves are small the interest profit is also small; but, on old assurances, and on short-term endowment assurances, where the reserves are large, the profit is correspondingly large. (It is here assumed that the funds appertaining to the new entrants are equally as profitable as those attaching to the older members.) With the growing age of the business, therefore, an increase in the interest profit may be looked for. This is in the reverse direction as regards mortality profit, and it is interesting to note how an increasing interest profit comes to the assistance of a decreasing mortality profit. Owing to the recent general fall in the rate of interest, the effective rate realised began to approach the valuation rate. In order, therefore, to maintain the same protecting interest margin, most companies have reduced their valuation rate. Such a step as this usually means that higher net premiums are used in the valuation, which has the effect of reducing the amount of the loading. To ascertain the amount of profit derived from excess interest, the following outline rule may be applied:—To the amount of the funds at the commencement of the year, increased by a year's interest at the valuation rate, add the difference between the income and outgo (excluding all interest items), increased by half a year's interest. This brings out the figure to which the funds would have amounted, if only the valuation rate has been realised. The excess of the actual funds at the end of the year over this figure is, therefore, interest profit.

PROFITS FROM LOADING.

The profit from this source arises from the loading received being more than the expenses incurred. To find the amount, take first of all the net premiums from the office premiums received, and thus get the loading. Deduct from this last amount the expenses of the year, thus finding the balance of loading, available as profit, to which half a year's valuation interest should be added. The difficult question as to whether the whole of the expenses are properly chargeable against the operations of the year is not here dealt with. Strictly speaking, the equalised loading should be used, and not the actual amount received in the year. As a practical working rule, it may, however, be conveniently assumed that the margin in the annual and single premiums corresponds to the equalised loading. It has been pointed out above that the profit from interest is much greater in the case of endowment assurances than with the whole-life assurances; but here, again, there is a counteracting influence, inasmuch as the loading profit is much greater on whole-life assurances than on endowment assurance business.

METROPOLITAN MUTUAL PERMANENT.

After a considerable interval, during which it has been readjusting its business, realising portions of its assets, and paying debenture and other creditors, the Metropolitan Mutual Permanent Building and Investment Association, Limited, has reinstated itself into a dividend-paying position, and now announces that a dividend will be declared at the forthcoming annual meeting of the association.

DALGETY'S INCREASED CAPITAL.

Reference was made in our cable news yesterday to the increase in the capital of Dalgety and Co., Limited. At the half-yearly meeting held just prior to the departure of last mail, the chairman, Mr. E. T. Doxat, made the reason of this increase clear. He said that many of the figures in their accounts showed a very considerable augmentation, and indeed the trade of Australasia showed such an expansion that they had had to refuse of late a good deal of highly desirable business, because their resources were already fully employed, and it had occurred to him more than once that in the interests of their shareholders it might shortly be desirable to take some steps in the direction of increasing their capital. The items specially calling for attention were increases of £286,307 on bills payable, and of £319,169 on liability on bills receivable under discount resulting from a considerable increase in the volume of their business, both as regards imports and exports. Sundry creditors and customers' balances stood at £844,051. This was a large increase, but with the recent additions to their branches and agencies, the amounts both on the debit and credit side must show larger figures. They had on hand considerable sums awaiting investment, and deposits and loans for fixed periods which had since in many instances matured and been paid off, and the produce held over had also now been largely realised, so that both this item and also the corresponding one on the credit side under the head of advances would have been materially reduced. Investments in Government stocks, etc., showed a reduction of £108,274. These investments were made as a means of temporarily dealing with surplus funds for which at the moment no profitable use could be found, but during the past year they had been able to use the proceeds of the portion sold to advantage in their general business.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The annual meeting of the National Mutual Life Association was held to-day. Mr. Andrew Newell, chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, stated that the new business was over £3,000,000 for the second year in succession, and exceeded the previous year's amount by over £10,000. The interest earned averaged £4/13/2 per cent. on the mean funds. There was an increase in the annual income of over £70,000, but scarcely any increase in the expenses of management. The funds increased by £400,000, and now reached nearly £5,250,000. The report was adopted, and the retiring directors were re-elected.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Gourlay Brothers, Ltd., has been formed, with a capital of £8000 in £1 shares, to acquire the stock-in-trade, fixtures, goodwill, etc., and to take over as a going concern the business of furniture warehousemen, storage and removal contractors, carriers, sellers of furniture and household effects, now carried on at North Sydney, under the name of Gourlay Bros. David Brand Gourlay, Henry Duncan Gourlay, Joseph Forde, and John Williams are the first directors of the company, whose registered office will be at North Sydney.

LONDON FINANCIAL CABLES.

AUSTRALIAN DEBENTURE STOCKS, ETC.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Australian Mortgage, Land, and Finance Company 4 per cent. debenture stocks, 10/ lower at £102/10/.

Queensland Investment, Land, and Mortgage Company 4 per cent. debentures, unquoted.

City of Sydney 4 per cent. debentures (1912-13), £102.

Dalgety and Co., Ltd., £5/15/.

Dalgety and Co., Ltd., 4 per cent. debentures, £100.

Metropolitan Gas Company (Melbourne) 4½ per cent., £101.

Union Mortgage and Agency Company of Australia, Ltd., 4½ per cent. debenture stocks, £61.

Australian and New Zealand Mortgage Company 4½ per cent. debentures, £97/10/.

COMMERCIAL.

THE MARKETS.

The holiday spirit was over the markets yesterday, and in many establishments serious work had already ceased. The mail bringing the new teas was not distributed until the late afternoon, and were, therefore, not available to buyers' inspection. Otherwise the spot tea market was quiet. Groceries houses were reporting fair city and suburban demand for nuts and dried and evaporated fruits, and in most of these seasonal lines the stocks had run down very low. In the metal markets, spot business in the usually quoted lines was nominal, but a fair amount of buying was reported of fencing wire for delivery in the year. One house was placing German black wire at £8 and £8/10/, ex the wharf, from the first January ship. American could be similarly bought at about 2/6 advance, although some merchants have much more expansive ideas of the values of American wires forward, and are quite prepared to wait until the market comes up to them. Iowa barbed wire, 12 gauge, is scarce on spot, and some holders are now insisting upon an additional 2/6, bringing the quotation to £15. The same wire of 14 gauge was variously quoted at £16 to £16/5/ on spot, but private cables from America intimated an advance in this line equivalent to 7/6, making the margin between it and 12 gauge practically £1/12/6. It is interesting to note that the margin between the prices has been gradually widening in the direction of more money for the finer gauge. Cornsacks were maintaining their strong tone. Some business was done on a basis of 4/10½, but there were other holders resting at 4/10. The present tendency of the market is, however, towards the higher level. Inquiries were still being received from other States, notably Victoria, and some offers from there to do business at 4/10 in fair parcels was passed. From some of the country districts complaints are received that the new sack is not heavy enough to stand the strain. In some cases the grain has started to spill after a little handling of the bags in the paddock, and there is some apprehension as to how wheat thus bagged will carry oversea. On the other hand, there are districts in which the new sack is spoken well of. The fact seems to be that all the sacks which have been imported this season have not been of uniform quality, some running light and with bad edges. There is, however, a very general opinion that the 2¼lb is not heavy enough, and an extra ¼lb at least is necessary. There is a strong feeling among some wheat men that this detail should receive attention at the hands of the Minister for Customs before buying starts for the next season's supplies. A short bill would no doubt be necessary. One fact clearly enough brought out so far this season is that the new sack, which was officially prescribed on the assumption that it would hold 200lb, only holds from 180lb to 185lb. Old sacks, for which demand during the past week has been quiet, are quoted at from 7/5¼, but a little dissatisfaction is expressed by holders of old sacks at the fact—or what they believe to be a fact—that new sacks of the prohibited size are being made locally and distributed. This is clearly against the spirit of the regulation, and is, moreover, very unfair to those who have stocks of this description of imported sacks on hand. The wheat market was very dull indeed, shippers, as prognosticated, reducing their limits to 3/7½, but at this figure very few parcels, and those small ones, changed hands. For millers' use an extra /0½ was obtained in some cases, but other millers were not buyers. In the general produce markets, chaff was bringing better prices, although feed grains were very dull. Lucerne was cheaper. Butter, eggs, bacon, and hams was very active, the supply of hams, particularly, being unequal to the demand. For good poultry the demand was very strong, and prices at fancy levels, but, as is so often the case, the sort of birds buyers are willing to pay handsomely for were very scarce, while there was a more than liberal supply of inferior kinds. The same remarks as to quality apply with equal force to fruit, although, taking it all round, it was bringing very good prices yesterday.

CONGESTION IN THE CITY.

Doubtless now that the heavy portion of the wool season is drawing to a close there will for a time at least be less talk than there has been of the antiquated arrangements for carting our staple products through the crowded streets of a busy city. The difficulty is one that must be met by some broad scheme of city improvement. As things are, the Railway Commissioners, the carters, and others have daily to face the congested state of a narrow-necked metropolis. As to the delays caused over some tallow, mentioned in this column by a correspondent recently, we understand that the fault did not really lie in the hands of the carrier, as was then alleged.

At Darling Harbour yesterday 2770 bales of wool were manifested to arrive.

The revenue collected at the Customs-house yesterday amounted to £10,294.

At Darling Harbour yesterday 1466 tons of wheat and 14 tons of flour were manifested to arrive.

LONDON MARKET CABLES.

METALS.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Yesterday's closing quotations were:—

Copper, spot, b £62/10/, s £62/15—2/6 down; three months, b £63/7/6, s £63/12/6—1/3 down. Electrolytic, £65/10/.

Tin, b £132/12/6, s £133/2/6; three months, b £134/5/, s £134/15—17/6 up.

Lead, soft foreign, b £13/2/6, s £13/3/9—unchanged.

LIVERPOOL WOOL SALES.

Dalgety and Company, Limited, Sydney, advise having received the following cable message from their London house under date of 23rd instant, viz.:—"At the public sales of wool held in Liverpool this week there was an active demand for the River Plate production. As compared with prices in force at the last sales rates for merinos generally and fine crossbreds were at par to 5 per cent. higher. Medium and coarse crossbreds advanced 5 to 7½ per cent."

INTERSTATE MARKETS.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

Wheat was quoted at 3/7½ for prompt delivery, and 3/7 to 3/7¼ for forward delivery. Old flour was quoted at £8/15/, new at £8/10/. Bran was quoted at /11, and pollard at 1/2. Algerian oats were quiet at 1/6 to 1/11. Maize was dull at 3/9 to 3/9½. Chaff was quiet and unchanged at £2/10/ to £3/5/; choice green wheaten sold up to £3/12/6. Potatoes were firmer with small supplies; new were quoted at £5/10/ to £6; extra prime occasionally to £6/10/. Onions were firm at £4/15/ to £5.

Butter was steady; choice western was quoted at /11, other prime /10¼, few special /10¾. Eggs were quoted at /11 to 1/1½.

Tea was active; about 1500 packages of Ceylon were placed. Cornsacks were slightly irregular up to 5/3. Branbags were quoted at 4/3 to 4/4.

FAT STOCK SALES.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

Elder, Smith, and Co. report as follows:—

Cattle: 1460 were yarded, eclipsing the previous record. There was a scarcity of prime, the bulk being mediocre. There was a large attendance and keen competition. Best lots were considerably dearer, others were firmer. Interstate buyers were unable to operate. Graziers took 120, and 240 were withdrawn. A prime paddock of beef brought 80/, best station beef 25/. We sold 140 cattle.

Sheep: 10,000 were yarded, mostly inferior. There was a strong demand with higher values. Exporters took 800, graziers 1800. The quotations for prime merino wethers were 11/ to 18/; prime ewes, to 10/; prime crossbred wethers, 18/ to 15/; prime crossbred ewes, 10/ to 12/.

Lambs: 4900 were yarded. Prices advanced materially. We sold 1200.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

In the live stock market to-day 2640 fat cattle were yarded, comprising 580 from South Australia and Queensland, 500 from New South Wales, 500 from the north-eastern district, 200 from Gippsland, 400 from South Gippsland, 150 from the northern district, and 200 from the western districts. Notwithstanding the increased supply good and prime qualities met with fairly good competition, and for such prices fluctuated from about late rates to 10/ per head lower. There was an increase of useful and fresh conditioned bullocks and all grades of cows. The demand was inactive, and prices ruled fully 15/ per head under last week's rates. Prime pens of bullocks sold at from £11/10/ to £12/10/, extra ditto £13 to £13/15/, odd beasts to £14/7/6, good ditto £9/10/ to £10/15/, good light and moderate weights £8/5/ to £9, second ditto £6/15/ to £7/15/, inferior from £5, with cows £3 to £8/10/, odd beasts to £13.

Fat calves: Four hundred and fifty were penned. The supply proved in excess of requirements, and prices ruled decidedly lower.

PRODUCE INWARDS.

LAUNCESTON, Wednesday.

The Wakatipu left for Sydney to-day with 2931 bales straw, 140 bags oat husks, 25 bags oatmeal, 5 bags oats, 5 bags peas, 43 bags bark, and 25 rams.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

TRADE IN SUSSEX-STREET.

Business in the produce markets was restricted to actual requirements. There was very little doing with chaff on the wharfs, but the market was steady at late rates. Practically all the maize on the North Coast wharf was touched with weevil. Supplies of Victorian and Java grain were offering, and these were now bringing more than Northern river maize. The demand, however, was dull, and only a few bags changed hands. The best of the rivers brought 4/3, while Victorian was offering at 4/5, and Java at 4/. Only the tail end of the Victorian shipment of new potatoes was now on the market, all other varieties having been disposed of. These were selling at about 10/ less. A further shipment of Hunter Rivers was expected to-morrow. There were no fresh arrivals of lucerne at the Hunter River wharf, and prices were unchanged. Onions were a shade weaker owing to the best of the consignment having been sold. Oats were steady at fairly firm rates.

Current quotations were:—

FEED-GRAIN AND OFFAL MARKET.

Maize.—Local: Best offering 4/3; Victorian, 4/5; Java, 4/ per bushel.

Barley.—Nominal.

Peas.—Blue, nominal; grey, 4/3 to 4/4.

Oats.—Tasmanian: 2/9. New Zealand: 2/9 to 2/11 bus.

Bran.—£5; pollard, £6 ton.

FORAGE MARKET.

Chaff.—South Australian: Prime £4/10/ to £4/15/, medium £4/5/ to £4/10/. Victorian: £4/5/ to £4/10/.

Oaten Hay.—Victorian: £6 to £6/10/ ton.

Derrick Straw.—Tasmanian: £2/17/6 ton.

Lucerne.—Hunter River: Prime dry green £3/15/, best brown £3/10/, inferior and grassy from 10/ upwards.

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes.—Victorian: To £5/5/.

Onions.—Victorian: £5/15/ to £6.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

There was still a big demand for hams, but supplies were bare. A few agents were forced to buy back orders from some of the large grocers, who were well supplied. Bacon was selling well, especially sides, and prices for both commodities were very firm. Cheese was quiet, the best makes making a few sales. Lard was dull, with the exception of a few packets which met inquiry. Butter met the usual Christmas demand at current value. With eggs it was found that the rush was now over. The demand was a little quieter, but the prices showed no material alterations. Agents were anxious to clear their stocks, owing to the approaching holidays. Northerns were now nearly all sold.

Current quotations were:—

Butter.—Special flavoured brands 96/, good 92/ to 94/, second and medium grades 88/ to 90/, inferior pastry, 66/ to 76/ per cwt.

Cheese.—Local: Prime loaf /6 to /7, good /5 to /5½, soft and new /4 to /4½; prime large /6 to /7, good /5 to /5½; special brands /9 to /9½ per lb.

Lard.—Packets and small bladders, /7½; bulk, /6 to /7; special brands, packets and small bladders, /8 to /8½; bulk, /7½ to /8½ lb.

Bacon.—Prime factory, sides /9½ to /9¾, flitches /8¾ to /9, middles /10½ to /10¾; bacon, hams, /11 to 1/; special brands, sides /9¾ to /10¼, flitches /8¾ to /9¼, middles /10 to /11½; seed hams, double covers 1/1 to 1/3; hams, single covers, 1/0¼ to 1/2¼. New Zealand: Hams 1/1 per lb.

Eggs.—Northern, Nominal to /11; Southern and railways, /11 to /11½; box lots railway, to 1/; new laid 1/1 to 1/2, few graded lots to 1/3; duck-eggs, /11, choice to 1/, few special brands 1/2.

FIREWOOD.

At the auction sales 35 truckloads were submitted, and fairly satisfactory sales resulted. Prices ruled at about last week's values.

The following prices were realised:—

Best boxwood, 14/ to 15/6, good 13/ to 14/; bakers' wood 12/ to 13/, good 11/ to 12/; ironbark, 10/6 to 13/6; stringybark, 10/6 to 13/.

APIARY PRODUCTS.

Honey was fairly plentiful, but sales were slow. Beeswax was quiet.

Current quotations were:—

Honey.—Western, 60lb tins, choice, /2¾ to /3, good /2 to /2¼, inferior and candied from /1½ to /2; Northern River, /1½ to /2.

Beeswax.—Prime clear 1/2 to 1/2¼, dark from 1/1 to 1/1¼.

POULTRY.

Agents in the "street" were considerably disappointed with the meagre supply of poultry that has come to hand this Christmas. The bulk of the offerings were made up of poor quality birds, while choice young poultry was quite a novelty. This scarceness was attributed to the high price of feed, which caused poultry farmers to limit their stocks. Another cause was that a number on the Northern rivers have given up poultry and have gone in for dairying.

Roosters, choice young 6/ to 7/, good 4/ to 5/6; small 3/6; old hens, good fat sorts 3/6 to 4/, others 2/9 to 3/, mixed sorts 4/3 to 4/6; chickens, 2/ to 2/6, small from 1/; English ducks, choice 5/, good 3/ to 4/6, small 2/ to 2/6; Muscovy, old drakes, 4/6 to 6/; turkeys, gobblers, extra heavy and choice up to 25/; choice 18/ to 24/6, good 10/ to 15/, hens from 5/ to 10/; geese, extra choice 10/ to 12/, choice 8/6, good 7/ to 8/; young goslings, 8/; guinea-fowls, 4/6; pigeons, /6 to 1/9 per pair.

AUCTION SALES.

Owing to the nearness of the holiday season, buyers are not inclined to operate too freely in produce, and, as a consequence, sales are apt to drag. There was a good attendance of buyers at the produce sale held in the railway goods shed on Wednesday morning. Competition was rather slack, but prices remained fairly firm at about recent levels. Forage sold steadily, but grain was again dull of sale. The offerings were made up in the following manner:—Chaff 18, lucerne hay 10, oaten hay 2, oaten and wheaten hay 2, oats 2, potatoes 3, onions 1. Thirteen consignments of new season's chaff were disposed of at prices which compare favourably with Tuesday's rates. Choice cuts had attention at from 4/9 to 5/1, prime at from 4/4 to 4/8, and medium at 3/10 per cwt. Lucerne hay moved off slowly at slightly weaker rates. Choice hay, in small bales, was booked at 5/ and 5/2, prime derrick pressed hay at 4/6, and prime truss hay at 3/9 per cwt. Medium quality oaten hay realised 4/ per cwt. Medium oaten and wheaten hay, pressed together, was sold at 3/ per cwt. Wheat was reserved for private dealings, after bidding had ceased at 3/9 per bushel. Prime new season's potatoes changed hands at 6/6 and 6/8, and medium at 5/ and 5/8, while good onions brought 4/ per cwt.

Supplies were disposed of as under:—

Chaff.—Ex Gasmain, (12161) 4/8; Veetch, Coolamon, (8633) p 4/4; Nadin, Allcock, and Dunoon, (2208) 4/9; Ashwood, (3298) 4/9; Byrnes, Wagga, (9221) 4/4; Hutchison and Wilson, (3654) 4/9; Clonan, Emerald Hill, (9458) p 3/11; ex Coolamon, (433) 4/8, (2645) 4/8, (11542) p 4/7; Southwell Bros., Illabo, (7806) 4/6; Burns, Wagga, (12784) 4/4; Molloy and Lee, Junee, (3397) 5/1; Ceely, Matone (5102) 4/8; Swan, Wagga, (8016) 4/8; Valverde and Co., Henty, (8294) p 4/7; Lewis, Forbes, (4615) p 5/2; Strickland, (9648) 3/10; Hutson, Greenethorpe, (2245) 4/7 per cwt.

Lucerne Hay.—From Brownscombe, West Tamworth, (7085) p 4/8; J. Mogg, Mudgee, (10078) 5/; Smith, (11154) p 4/6; Delaney, Cowra, (7064) 4/6; V. D. Cox, Mudgee, (8041) 5/, (708) p 4/8; G. Sharpe, (6571) p 4/8; Henry Keech, (9711) p 4/7; C. Mogg, (1774) 5/1; Cox, Mulgrave, (5567) 3/9 per cwt.

Oaten and Wheaten Hay.—From Abel, Tarana, (11910) 3/, (11287) p 2/11, oaten p 5/8 per cwt.

Oaten Hay.—From Towsell, Perthville, (953) p 5/; Vaughan, Mulgrave, (4358) 4/ per cwt.

Wheat.—From Iliffe, Manilla, (6308) p 3/9; Burgess, Tamworth, (3773) p 3/9 per bushel.

Potatoes.—Ex Darling Harbour, (11964), 12 bags branded M 5/, 10 bags branded FRB 5/8; Ryan, Canley Vale, (3358) 6/6; Nicholl, Windsor, (2363) 6/8; Cashert, 7 bags 6/6.

Onions.—From Hop Sing, Wellington, (743) 4/ per cwt.

VEGETABLES.

Business in this portion of the Belmore markets was fairly animated, a fair turnover being effected despite the fact that prices ruled high. Cabbages were in large supply, and were selling at slightly weaker rates. Potatoes and onions were more plentiful than of late, and were meeting with a fair demand. Lettuces, radishes, beetroot, and celery were all eagerly snapped up at firmly maintained prices. Green peas were again unprocurable. Agents report that they do not anticipate receiving any further supplies of Queensland tomatoes this season.

Current quotations were:—

Cabbages, large 4/, medium 3/, small 1/6; pumpkins, large 12/, medium 9/6, small 6/6; lettuce, 1/; cucumbers, large 1/, small /9; vegetable marrows, 2/6; squashes, 3/ per dozen; carrots, 1/; parsnips, 1/3; white turnips, 1/6; beetroot, /9; leeks 1/6; eschalots, 1/; parsley, 3/; mint, /6; herbs, /6; watercress, 2/6; rhubarb, large 2/6, small 2/; celery, large 2/, small 1/; radishes, /9, 1/; horseradish, 10/; garlic, 2/6; asparagus, 6/, 7/ per dozen bunches; Circular Head potatoes (old) 7/6, (new) 9/; Early Rose, 9/; onions, 7/6 per cwt; French beans, 2/, 2/6, inferior 1/ per bushel; tomatoes, local 2/6 per quarter-case, 4/3 per half-case.

FRUIT MARKETS.

BATHURST-STREET.

The special feature at Bathurst-street was the remarkably high price paid for local lemons. Imported stocks were now all sold, and only an odd case or so arrived from local growers. The recent hot weather caused a keen demand to set in, and fruiterers were prepared to pay a fancy price in order to secure a decent case. Up to £1 was received, and this was the highest price paid for lemons for some years. It was expected that another shipment of Italian lemons would be on the market on Monday next, when good sales are anticipated. Cherries sold a little better as the quality improved. Choice peaches also met a higher rate. The recent heavy shipment of bananas has sold exceptionally well. The lowering of prices when the fruit first arrived was the main factor for the improved sale. Now there were very few to be had, and owing to their scarcity merchants decided to ask another 1/ for cases, and /6 for bunches. Choice fruit was extremely scarce at the markets.

Current quotations were:—

Apples.—American: Jonathans, extra heavy 12/ to 15/; Spitz, 10/ to 11/; Baldwins, good colour, 14/; Permains, 10/ to 10/6; Gravensteins, 10/ to 11/; Wagners, 10/ to 11/. Local: Carringtons, choice 10/ to 11/, medium 6/ to 7/, small 2/6 to 3/; Alsop, choice 5/ to 6/, medium 2/6 to 3/; Lord Nelson, choice 5/6 to 6/ per gin-case. Victorian: 6/ to 7/6 per bushel-case. Local: Jam lots, 1/6 per gin-case.

Apricots.—Choice coloured 4/ to 5/, medium 2/6 to 3/ per box; jam lots, 4/ per gin-case.

Black Currants.—Tasmanian: 5/ per quarter-case.

Bananas.—G.M., 12/ to 13/ per case, 4/ to 8/ per bunch. Fiji: 11/ to 12/ per case, 2/6 to 7/6 per bunch. Queensland: 8/ to 9/ per case, 2/ to 5/ per bunch.

Cherries.—Adelaide: 1/6 upwards per tray. Victorian: Extra choice black 6/ to 7/, whites, 4/ to 5/6, small 1/ to 2/ per half-imperial bushel-case. Local: Few extra choice to 7/, choice 4/ to 5/, good 2/6 to 3/6 per 12lb box, extra choice 5/, choice 3/ to 4/, small /6 to 1/6 per quarter-case.

Gooseberries.—Tasmanian: 2/6 to 3/ per half-case. Local: Choice 3/6, good 2/6 to 3/ per box.

Lemons.—Local: Choice, up to £1, medium 10/ to 12/, small 7 /to 8/. Italians nominal.

Mangoes.—Queensland: Practically unsaleable.

Mandarins.—Second crop: Emperors, choice 10/ to 12/, medium 6/ to 7/, small 2/ to 2/6 per gin-case.

Nectarines.—Choice 4/6 to 5/, medium 3/ to 3/6, small 1/6 to 2/ per half-case.

Oranges.—Local: Choice 9/ to 10/, medium 6/ to 7/, small and rough 2/6 to 3/. Second crop, choice 6/ to 7/, medium 2/6 to 3/, small and rough almost unsaleable; late Valencias, choice 12/ to 15/, medium 7/ to 9/ per gin-case. American: Washington Navels, £1 to £1/1/ per box, containing from 150 to 200. Italian: 12/ per box of 150.

Plums.—Angelinas, choice 4/ to 4/6, medium 2/6 to 3/ half-case. Japanese: Choice coloured 2/6 to 3/ per half-case, medium 2/ per gin-case. Black Bullies, 5/ to 6/ per gin-case; jam lots, 4/ per gin-case.

Pears.—Jargonelles, choice 4/6 to 5/, medium 3/ to 3/6 per gin-case; Williams,' 7/ to 7/6 per gin-case.

Peaches.—Briggs', choice 5/ to 7/, medium 3/ to 3/6 per box, small 2/ to 3/ per gin-case. China: 2/ to 4/ per gin-case. Hale's Early, choice 4/6 to 5/6, medium 3/ to 3/6 per box. Devlin's red, choice 4/ to 4/6, medium 3/, small 1/6 to 2/ per box.

Pineapples.—Queensland: Common, choice 8/ to 10/; Ripley Queen, 8/ to 10/, medium 4/ to 7/; Queen, 8/ to 10/, good 3/ to 4/, inferior unsaleable.

Passionfruit.—Queensland: Choice 2/6 to 4/, shrivelled 1/ to 2/ per quarter-case.

Strawberries.—Local: Nominal.

Tomatoes.—Queensland: Unsaleable. Local: Choice 2/6 to 2/8, good 1/6 to 2/ per quarter-case, 3/ to 5/ per half-case.

Rockmelons.—Queensland: 2/ to 3/6 per bushel-case, 5/ to 7/6 per double-case.

Red Currants.—Tasmanian: 4/ per quarter-case. Local: 2/ to 2/8 per 12lb box.

Watermelons.—Queensland: Large 12/ to 15/, medium 10/ to 12/ per dozen.

Peanuts.—/5¼; walnuts, /6½; almonds, /10; Lychees, /10; and Barcelonas, /5½ per lb.

BELMORE.

All good varieties of fruit are meeting with a particularly keen demand, high prices being obtained. Mangoes are selling better than of late. Bananas are scarcer on account of the great run there has been on this fruit since agents reduced their prices. Locally-grown peaches are now coming to hand freely, and are commanding a satisfactory amount of attention. Lemons are in grand demand, and agents are receiving high prices for their supplies. The supply of American apples is now practically exhausted, and no further shipments are expected. A fair quantity of choice cherries was available, and sold well at firm prices.

Current quotations were:—

Apples.—Local—Cooking: 2/ to 5/ per half-case, 5/ to 8/ per gin-case. Alsop's Early, 2/ to 6/ per gin-case. American: From 11/ to 16/ per bushel-case, according to variety.

Apricots.—Local: 4/ to 8/ per gin-case, 3/ to 7/ half-case.

Bananas.—Fiji: 10/; /6 to 5/ per bunch. Gros Michael, 11/. Queensland: 8/. Cavendish: 4/ to 7/ per case.

Cherries.—Local: Red from 2/ to 5/6; black from 2/6 to 6/ per quarter-case. Victorian: Red from 2/6 to 4/6; black 4/ to 6/ per half-bushel-case.

Black Plums.—Local: 2/ to 4/6 per half-case, 5/ to 7/ per gin-case. Japanese: 3/ to 5/. Angelinas: Choice from 3/ to 5/ per half-case.

Cucumbers.—Queensland: 1/6 to 3/ per bushel-case.

Gooseberries.—Tasmanian: 2/ to 4/. Victorian: 2/ to 3/6. Local: 1/ to 2/6 per quarter-case.

Lemons.—Choice coloured 20/, medium 15/. Italian: Double cases 30/, half-cases, 15/ to 16/.

Rockmelons.—Queensland: 5/ to 8/ per double-case.

Nectarines.—Local: 2/6 to 6/ per half-case, extra choice 9/ to 10/.

Oranges.—Extra choice 15/, choice 12/ to 13/, medium 9/ to 10/ per gin-case; second crop, 7/ to 10/ per gin-case; rough, unsaleable.

Peaches.—Local: Hayles' Early, 3/ to 7/, extra choice 10/; Devlin's Reds, 4/ to 8/; Red Ruby's, 5/ to 9/ per half-case, small 4/ to 6/ per gin-case.

Pears.—Jargonelles, 4/ to 6/ per gin-case.

Pineapples.—Common, choice 6/ to 8/; Queens, 10/ per case.

Mangoes.—Queensland: 4/ per box.

Strawberries.—Local: Choice 9/ to 11/, good 6/, inferior 5/ per dozen-quart punnets, 4/ to 7/ per four-quart-box. Hobart: 9/ to 15/ per dozen-quart punnets.

Tomatoes.—Local: 2/6 to 5/ per half-case.

Watermelons.—Queensland: From 10/ to 15/, extra choice to 20/ per dozen.

CITY YARDS.

At the midweek auction sales 480 calves were yarded, the majority of which were made up of small and rough sorts. As is usual for this time of the year competition was dull, owing to buyers having stocks enough on hand. Values consequently declined, and were lower than for some considerable time.

The following were the prices realised:—

Extra weighty yearlings 27/ to 35/, odd higher; prime vealers 20/ to 25/, medium 15/ to 20/, best hobbies 8/ to 12/6, medium 5/ to 7/, rough lower.

STOCK TRUCKINGS.

For the sale of December 24, 459 sheep vans and 166 cattle waggons; and for that of December 31, 411 sheep vans and 178 cattle waggons have been ordered. No dates are available for the order of sheep vans.

HOMEBUSH SALES.

At the stock sales to be held at Homebush to-day the offerings will consist of 1648 cattle and 52,363 sheep.

"KAMERUKA" CHEDDAR CHEESE.

Made by Experts. Acknowledged to be superior to all other brands.

DENHAM I 1108. Sole Agents, 231-331 Sussex-st.—Advt.

Ellis and Co., Live Stock and Produce Merchants.—Sales of hay, chaff, etc., held at Redfern daily.—Advt.

The Aquatic Notes in the "Sydney Mail" by "Trident" never lose interest week by week. The author is always well informed on important matches, and his remarks this week are full of interest.—Advt.

MINING.

THE SHARE MARKET.

What looks like the commencement of a final flutter before the market closes over the approaching holidays was commenced yesterday morning. Why it would be hard to say. There certainly was no change in metal values to account for the increased business recorded. Indeed, if anything, the position as regards silver-lead stocks was not so good, as lead recorded another fall of 1/3, whilst the price of copper remained stationary. Again there were no reported improvements in the prospects of the mines to account for the demand, except in one or two cases. Some operators were ready with an explanation that certain speculators were either covering up "bear" or "time" transactions in view of the London demand for certain Australian stocks.

Whatever may be the cause, the business recorded in Barrier scrip was fairly large. It is quite true that B.H. South, contg. sold on six weeks' terms, a shade under the previous day's ordinary rates, whilst there were sellers for ordinary delivery /6 under late rates. The paid scrip was also 1/ easier, but this was not regarded as serious. On the other hand, B.H. Junction North sold firmly at 27/. Offers equal to late rates for B.H. Block 14 pref. were refused. B.H. South Blocks were a fraction easier, but buyers of B.H. Proprietary would not bid up, and sellers would not come down.

In the case of copper shares, business was recorded in Chillagoe, contg. at a slight improvement, but O.K. Copper were weak, sales being booked at 4/3, as against 4/9 previously recorded. Kyloe Copper were still in good demand, on the strength of the mine prospects, and sales were booked at advanced rates. A better feeling was also shown for Mount Morgans, which changed hands at 68/6 on six weeks' terms. Signs of weakness were shown by Macgregors and Munganas, but on the other hand advanced offers were made for Mount Elliotts and Mount Molloys, with buyers at steady rates for Lobb's Hole, Queen Bee, and Wallaroo and Moonta. Wide quotations were made in the case of Grafton Copper.

The sole representative of the tin industry was a sale of Gilmore Tin at 1/9, /2 under the previous sale recorded some time ago. The most noticeable feature about gold stocks was the strong demand for Sandstone Development shares, on the strength of the crosscut being pushed out from the Juno shaft to catch the Oroya-Black Range lode, as it underlies out of the lease of the company. Sales were booked to 3/8, an advance of /8. Harden Central scrip sold firmly, Araluen Central recovered a little, but Gold Hill, paid, receded /3.

The morning spurt died away considerably during the afternoon. Both the paid and contributing scrip of the B. H. South Company came back, the former 1/6, and the latter 1/. In copper stocks, O.K. repeated the morning's weak sales, but Chillagoe, contributing, finished up firm. Tin shares were out of favour. In gold stocks good business at firm rates was recorded in Sandstone Development; but Bonnie Dundee was very weak. Gold Hill eased a little, whilst South Kalgurli recovered from 16/ to 17/1½.

Sydney Stock Exchange.—The closing quotations were:—

	Buyers. £ s d	Sellers. £ s d
COPPER.		
Budgery Mines	0 1 10	0 2 6
Chillagoe, contributing	0 4 10	—
Grafton	1 0 0	1 4 0
Kyloe	0 12 0	0 12 9
Ditto, preference	0 9 0	0 9 6
Lobb's Hole	0 12 3	0 13 3
Ditto, contributing	—	0 10 0
McGregor-Cloncurry, paid	0 5 0	—
Mount Cuthbert	0 5 0	0 6 0
Mount Elliott	2 14 0	2 16 0
Mount Molloy	0 7 3	—
Mungana (Chillagoe)	0 5 6	0 5 9
O.K.	0 4 0	—
Queen Bee	0 5 3	0 5 6
Wallaroo and Moonta	1 19 0	—
TIN.		
Gilmore	—	0 1 11
Vulcan	—	0 3 8
SILVER. New South Wales, etc.		
British Broken Hill	0 17 6	0 18 3
Broken Hill Proprietary	1 19 3	2 1 0
Ditto, Block 10	3 2 0	—
Ditto, preference	0 11 6	0 12 4
B.H. Junction	0 2 6	0 3 0
B. H. Junction North	1 6 9	1 7 6
B. H. North	3 0 0	3 3 0
B. H. South	4 7 0	4 8 6
B. H. South, contributing	3 17 6	3 18 6
B. H. South Blocks	1 4 0	—
Sulphide Corporation, ordinary	0 7 9	0 8 3
GOLD. New South Wales, etc.		
Baker's Creek	—	0 2 0
Gold Hill	0 4 2	—
Ditto, contributing	0 3 1	0 3 5
Harden	1 9 0	1 10 6
Harden Central, paid	0 3 3	0 3 10
Ditto, contributing	0 1 6	0 2 0
Harden West	0 3 3	0 3 10
Ditto, contributing	0 1 3	0 1 9
Mount David	0 1 6	0 2 0
New Hillgrove Proprietary	0 0 6	0 0 9
Occidental	0 5 6	0 9 0
Dredging and Sluicing.		
Araluen Central	0 3 0	—
New Wylie Creek	0 2 9	0 4 0
Reform Tin, paid	—	0 3 4
Tasmania.		
Mount Lyell	1 15 0	1 17 3
Queensland. Charters Towers, etc.		
Bonnie Dundee	0 4 6	0 5 0
Brilliant Central	0 4 0	0 4 3
East Mexican, paid	0 4 10	0 5 3
Kelly's Queen Block	—	0 2 2
Mount Morgan	3 8 0	3 11 0
Queen Cross Reef	—	0 1 3
Ruby	—	0 2 10
Ditto, contributing	—	0 1 7
Gympie.		
Columbia Extended	—	0 7 8
Great Northern, contributing	—	0 3 4
North Columbia and Smithfield No. 1	—	0 5 3
North Oriental and Glanmire No. 1	0 1 0	0 1 6
North Smithfield	—	0 3 3
Peter and Paul, contributing	0 0 5	—
South Glanmire and Monkland	0 0 6	0 1 6
South Great Eastern, No. 2	0 2 3	0 3 3
Western Australia.		
Associated, Northern Blocks	0 12 6	—
Black Range	2 6 0	—
Chaffer's	0 8 0	0 8 3
Great Boulder	1 7 0	1 9 0
Great Boulder, Main Reef	—	0 7 0
Ditto, No. 1	0 9 9	0 10 6
Ditto, Perseverance	0 7 9	0 8 10
Ivanhoe	8 0 0	—
Kalgurli	8 0 0	—
Kalgurli South	—	0 16 0
Lake View Consols, L.R.	1 4 6	1 5 6
Lake View South	0 2 1	0 2 7
Sandstone Development	0 3 6	0 3 9

STOCK EXCHANGE SALES.

MORNING.

Copper.—Chillagoe, contg., 6/; Kyloe Copper, six weeks 13/, ord. 13/, one month 13/, ord., 12/3; O.K. Copper, 4/3; Mount Morgan, six weeks, 68/6.

Silver.—B.H. Junction North, 26/10½, 27/; B.H. South, contg, six weeks, 79/; B.H. Block 14, pref., 12/.

Tin.—Gilmore Tin, 1/9.

Gold.—Harden Central, paid, 3/6, 3/5; ditto, contg, 1/9; Sandstone Development, 3/3, 3/6, 3/8; Gold Hill, paid, 4/4; Araluen Central, 3/1.

AFTERNOON.

Copper.—O.K. Copper, 4/3; Chillagoe, contg., 5/1.

Silver.—B.H. South, contg., 78/6; ditto, six weeks, 79/; ordinary, 78/; six weeks, 79/; B.H. South, paid, 87/6.

Tin.—Nil.

Gold.—Gold Hill, contg., 3/, 3/1, 3/2; ditto, paid, 4/5; Sandstone Development, 3/8; Bonnie Dundee, 4/7; South Kalgurli, 17/1½.

MINING NOTES.

Columbia Extended declared a dividend of /6 per share, payable yesterday.

No. 2 South Oriental crushed 45½ tons for 68oz smelted gold.

North Smithfield crushed 286 tons for 212oz smelted gold.

Brilliant crushed 1182 tons for gold valued at £4843.

No. 2 North Columbia won 775oz smelted gold. The directors declared a dividend of /9 per share, payable yesterday.

No. 4 North Phoenix won 1858oz smelted gold. The directors declared a dividend of 2/6 per share, payable yesterday.

The Mount Lyell Company has despatched 1801 tons of blister copper for the current half-year.

The Great Northern Company (Gympie) reports a crushing of 237 tons of stone, for a yield of 397oz of amalgam.

Since the last report issued by the manager of the Fort Bourke Copper-mining Company, on November 26, the contractor has sunk the shaft to 94ft. The ground at present is nearly all quartz, and fairly difficult sinking. The horse-power whim has arrived at the mine, and should be erected within a week. Three shifts are employed.

The further developments in the 300ft level of the Great Fitzroy Mines (Q.) are as follows:—"Main east crosscut, 307ft to 317ft, 4.2 per cent. copper, 1.5dwt gold; rise, 39ft to 41ft, 4.75 per cent. copper, 3.5dwt gold, now in dyke; N.W. drive at 286ft, in main east crosscut, 0ft to 9ft, 3.75 per cent. copper, 1.27dwt gold; S.E. drive at 286ft in main east crosscut, 0ft to 9ft, 4.3 per cent. copper, 1dwt gold; 225ft level, S.E. drive, 56ft to 59ft, 6.5 per cent. copper, 3dwt gold.

The report of the O.K. copper mine for the fortnight ended December 16 is as follows:—"Treated 389 tons ore for 61 tons of blister copper, of which 3½ tons contain a total of 6½ oz of gold and 38oz of silver. North lease: New shaft sunk further 11ft, total 138ft. The ore met with in the last 20ft of sinking is increasing in size, and the grade has gone up to 10 per cent. Winze 60ft north-east from shaft now down 29ft below the 70ft level, in ore of same grade and composition as previously reported. Transport has been interrupted by rain, but ample fuel and fluxes accumulated at mine to tide over wet season."

Private cables state that amongst the shares quoted on the London Stock Exchange on Tuesday were the following:—B.H. Block 10, 65/ (m); Chaffer's, b 7/9; B.H. Proprietary, 40/6 (m); Boulder Perseverance, 8/6 (m); Chillagoe, contg, b 4/9; South Kalgurli, 16/ (m); Mungana, b 5/4; Associateds, b 24/; B.H. South Blocks, b 24/6; Lake View Consols, b 24/6; Zincs, ord., 6/ (m); Great Boulders, b 28/9; Mount Elliotts, b 76/9; Hannan's Star, 6/6 (m); Sons of Gwalia, b 26/6; Gwalia Consolidated, 5/7½ (m); Great Cobars, 87/6 (m); Ivanhoe, £8/6/ (m); Zinc Corporation, pref., b 20/. Lead was quoted at £13/2/6, a fall of 1/3. Copper was unchanged at £62/12/6. Burns, Philp, and Co., paid, 42/.

The operations of the Kyloe copper mines during last week show that the prospects of the lode continue to improve. The north drive at No. 3 level, now in 16ft, shows that the lode has increased in width to 6ft 3in, 4ft of which averaged 21 per cent. and the remaining 2ft 3in from 8 to 10 per cent. Some 22 tons raised from the eastern portion assayed 21 per cent. The south drive, at the same level, is in 12ft, and discloses 4ft of stone. Some 27 tons raised assayed 9.6 per cent. No. 3 south winze, from No. 2 level, is down 64ft in the eastern portion of the lode, which is exposed 3ft wide, and 11 tons raised assayed 23 per cent. The remaining portion of the lode was not broken down, but is estimated to be 3ft wide of 8 per cent. ore. The stopes yielded 14 tons of 17.4 per cent. ore. There were smelted 69¾ tons of ore, producing 24 tons 12cwt of matte, containing 13 tons of copper. On December 19 all regular work was suspended until January 2. During the interval necessary repairs and alterations to the plant will be effected.

MOUNT DAVID COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the Mount David Gold-mining Company was held yesterday at The Hall, Royal-chambers, Castlereagh-street, Mr. D. K. Inglis, chairman of the company, presiding. In the course of his remarks the chairman stated that the mine manager was stoping on a big body of ore from the 300ft level, ranging from two to five feet wide, and worth about 12dwt. In the No. 3 south-east drive, winch winze, a big body of water has been struck, announcing, the manager believes, the close vicinity of a large reef. Below the No. 3 south-east winch winze drive a body of ore about 2ft in thickness, and worth from 15dwt to an oz., has been driven on for 200ft, and has been sunk on some 90ft. This will be available for economical working when the new main shaft is completed. A drive to the north-west from No. 3 level gives promises of profitably opening up a large body of virgin ground. During the past year nearly £12,000 have been won from the mine.

The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted. Mr. John Kent paid a high tribute to the very satisfactory manner in which the Mount David accounts were compiled. Mr. F. B. Cureton was re-elected a director, and Messrs. John Kent and C. F. Digby-Smith as auditors. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

MINING IN THE STATE.

WELLINGTON, Wednesday.

The Lord of the Hills, near the Wealth of Nations, has crushed 25 tons of stone at the Federal battery for 46oz 15dwt, which shows nearly 2oz to the ton. The gold was worth £3 17s 6d per oz.

LITHGOW, Wednesday.

The Lithgow Syndicate, consisting of Messrs. Clifton, Sedger, and party, crushed 10 tons of stone from their reef at Hawkins Hill, Hill End, for the satisfactory return of over 23oz of gold, worth £4 an ounce. The party is pleased at the return, and there is every prospect of further good crushings from the same reef, with the chance also of striking some rich patch, as the country is famous for its gold-bearing quality.

MILLTHORPE, Wednesday.

Mining operations at the Calvert mine have been discontinued until after Christmas. All the winding gear is now in its place, but it will not be put into use until the present contract for sinking is completed. The contractors have 25ft more to sink before their contract is finished.

Mr. J. Mills, manager of the Calvert mine, has been successful in disposing of a good gold-and-copper show on the same line as the Calvert lode to a strong metropolitan syndicate. This property was owned and prospected by Mr. W. Orington, an old pioneer of the mining industry in this district. The price received was very satisfactory, and the money was paid over on Tuesday.

ORANGE, Wednesday.

At the Warden's Court on Monday Robert Penhall, agent for the proprietors, applied for suspension of the labour conditions on G.L. 29, parish of Mulyan. Applicant stated that £900 had been spent on the mine, and that 150 tons of ore had returned 9dwt 15gr per ton. The main shaft had been sunk 132ft, and other work had been done. Three months' suspension was granted.

Mining in the district is slowing down for Christmas. At Forest Reefs the Quondong is raising washdirt; the Ballarat tributers are still driving; the Le Grand Victor will recommence early in the new year; the Beneree is still driving towards the wash; Davis and party washed up from the lower Carbine, but the results are not yet known; Jarvis Bros., of Flyer's Creek, will wash up early in the new year.

WEST WYALONG, Wednesday.

The results of the last lot of ore sent by the Golden Fleece Company to Cockle Creek works were as follow:—11½ of firsts, 4oz 8dwt to the ton; 206 tons of seconds, 23dwt to the ton; 3 tons of concentrates, 5oz 6dwt to the ton.

THE YAMBULLA FIELD.

YAMBULLA, Wednesday.

Miradian and Pola, of the Yambulla Mines, cleaned up 207 tons at their battery for 170oz of smelted gold, with about 5 per cent. of concentrates. The same party had nine tons of sulphide ore treated at the Yarraville Smelting Works, Victoria, for 9oz 7dwt of gold and 10oz silver per ton, also 7 tons of concentrates treated at the same works produced 7oz 7dwt of gold, and 8½oz silver per ton.

BROKEN HILL MINES.

BROKEN HILL, Wednesday.

Before the British Mine closed down for the holidays on Saturday Thompson's 600ft south drive was extended to 234½ft, still through schist. This ends all developmental work for the present, until the reopening of the mine.

A rumour was current last night that a rich gold-bearing reef had been discovered about six miles from Broken Hill. Half-ounce assays were freely talked of, and a local paper gives the discovery a decided fillip. Experts who yesterday visited the scene of the find speak, however, very disparagingly of it, and samples and assays show the reef is apparently of little value, the stone only showing colours.

ORANGE PLAINS COPPER FIELD.

TOTTENHAM, Wednesday.

Work is being steadily pushed along at the Mount Royal gold and copper mine. The boiler is expected at the mine this week for the diamond boring plant. Work will be continued all through the holidays.

At the Bogan River Copper Mining Company, during the last three weeks, the furnace worked constantly. Copper values have been maintained. Some 280 tons ore was smelted, containing 13 tons 14cwt of copper. A parcel of 13 tons of blister was despatched on the 11th instant. Work has been suspended for the Christmas holidays, with the exception of some miners. General operations will be resumed at this mine about January 16.

The contractors have driven about 30ft at the King Edward VII. copper mine, 200ft level. The country is still hard.

The Chris. Watson copper mine have a nice parcel of 23 per cent. ore for despatch to the smelters.

At the Sydney Wallaroo Mining Company, Madden and party are raising up to 20 per cent. carbonates. The ore from this mine is sent to the Bogan River smelters.

Hutchinson and party at their prospecting area, East Tottenham, have sunk to 60ft, and at present are driving south to catch the ironstone lode left overhead. The formation is much more promising for copper than hitherto.

The West Bogan Copper Syndicate is down 130ft with the shaft. Water is coming in freely. Some good bunches of ore were passed through the last 30ft of sinking.

Most of the mines in this district will resume mining operations the second Monday in January.

INTERSTATE EXCHANGES.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

To-day's sales and quotations were:—

W.A. mines: Associated, 24/10½, b 24/6, s 25/; Northern, 13/, 13/4½, b 13/1½; Chaffer's, 8/2, 8/4, b 8/3, s 8/4; Boulder, 28/1½, 28/4, b 28/3, s 28/4½; Boulder No. 1, paid, b 9/10, s 10/; Golden Ridge, 22/9; Golden Link, 6/; Hannan's Star, 6/9, 6/10, b 6/10, s 6/11; Ivanhoe, b £8/2/, s £8/10/; Lake View, 25/, 25/4½, 24/7¼, b 24/6, s 24/9; Lake View South, 2/4, 2/4½, 2/4, b 2/3, s 2/4; Main Reef, 6/7, 6/9, b 6/8, s 6/9; Mararoa, 18/6, b 18/, s 20/; ditto North, contg., 1/1½, b 1/1, s 1/2½; North Kalgurli, 2/8, b 2/7½, s 2/8; Melton, 3/2½; Oroya, 18/7½, 18/6, b 18/3, s 19/; Gwalia South, paid, 38/, b 38/, s 40/; South Kalgurli, 16/9, 17/, b 16/10½, s 17/1½; Sandstone Development, b 3/5, s 3/9; Waihi, 1/11, b 1/11, s 1/11½.

Silver: B.H. Proprietary, 41/, b 40/, s 40/6; B.H. Block 14, pref., 12/; British (old), 17/10½, 17/7½, b 17/6, s 17/10½; ditto (new), b 16/3, s 16/6; Block 10, b 63/, s 64/; South, paid, b 86/, s 87/6; ditto, contg., b 76/6, s 78/6; South Blocks, b 24/9, s 25/; Zinc, pref., b 31/, s 23/; Junction North, b 26/8, s 27/6.

Copper: Chillagoe, b 5/11, s 6/; Hampden, b 10/, s 10/6; Macgregor, 5/; Mount Elliott, paid, b 75/, s 75/3; Mount Lyell, b 36/6, s 37/; Munganas, b 5/6, s 5/9; Kinsaleigh, 14/3; O.K., paid, 4/4, b 4/3, s 4/4; Wallaroo and Moonta, b 39/3, s 39/6; Kyloe Copper, 12/14, 12/4½, b 12/3, s 12/6.

Tin: Smith's Creek, pref., 2/9.

BENDIGO, Wednesday.

To-day's quotations were:—Catherine Reef United, b 20/9, s 21/3; Confidence Extended, b 1/6, s 1/8, sales 1/6; Great Southern, s 25/; Horwood and Burrowes, s 5/3; Johnson's Reef, b 12/, s 12/9; Nell Gwynne, b 4/10, s 5/4½; New Chum Goldfields, b 7/3, s 8/; North Bendigo G. M. Company, b 2/, s 2/6; North New Moon, s 7/9; South New Moon, b 20/6, s 34/6; Specimen Hill, s 14/9; Suffolk United, b 6/3, s 6/6; sales 6/1, 6/10½, 6/4½; The Langdon, b 2/1, s 2/5; Williams' United, b 4/, s 4/6.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

To-day's sales were:—Bonnie Dundee, ex dividend, 4/9, 4/8½, 4/9; East Mexican, contg., 4/. The Exchange closes till January 4 after afternoon call to-morrow.

CHARTERS TOWERS, Wednesday.

To-day's quotations were:—Brilliant, 4/6, 4/7; Central, 4/1, 4/4; Bonnie, 4/8, 4/10; Deeps, 2/1, 2/3; Extended, b 7/6; ditto, paid, 9/, 9/5; Worcester, /4½, /6; ditto, paid, /10; Mines, b 1/1; Mexican, 3/11, 4/; ditto, paid, 5/1, 5/3; Alexandra, /5, /6; ditto, paid, 1/1, 1/3; Kelly's, /2, /3; ditto, paid, 2/, 2/3; Marshall's, 1/6, 1/7; Mills, 11/6, 12/; Freehold, 25/, 25/6; Central, b 1/3; Ruby, b 1/6; ditto, paid, b 2/6; Caledonia, 1/1, 1/4.

Sales:—Brilliant, 4/6; Central, 4/2; Deeps, 2/2; Mexican, 3/11, 4/; ditto, paid, 4/10 to 5/1; Kulamadau, /10½; Marshall's, 1/7, 1/6½; Freehold, 25/; Papuan, /6; New Queen, /5; Wallis, /3.

GYMPIE, Wednesday.

To-day's quotations were:—No. 3 N. Columbia, 2/2, 2/6; Columbia Consolidated, 1/8, 2/; No. 1 South Great Eastern, s /6; No. 2 South Great Eastern, b 2/6; Great Northern, 2/9, 3/; Homeward Bound and Hibernian, s 1/; East Oriental, paid, 5/, 5/4; East Oriental, contg., 4/10, 5/6; Oriental Consols, s 1/4; No. 3 N. Phoenix and Victory Tribute, paid, b 1/6; No. 3 N. Phoenix and Victory Tribute, contg., 1/, 1/4.

LAUNCESTON, Wednesday.

Quotations:—Tasmania, s 6/; Hercules, b 8/, s 10/; Tasmanian Copper, b 5/7, s 6/; Mount Bischoff, b £34/15/, s £35; Arba, b 5/.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

To-day's sales and quotations were:—

Silver: Zinc Corporation, b 4/, s 6/; ditto, pref., b 28/; B. H. Block 10, b 61/6, s 63/6; Block 14, 12/; British (old), b 17/6, s 18/1; Broken Hills, 40/6, 40/, b 40/3, s 40/6; Junction North, 27/, 25/9, b 26/6, s 26/10; Souths, contg., 77/6, b 77/6, s 78/; ditto, paid, 87/, b 86/, s 88/; South Blocks, 24/10½, 24/9, b 24/9, s 25/; North Broken Hill, b 60/; Sulphide, b 5/; ditto, pref., b 15/.

Copper: Mount Lyell, 36/6, b 36/3, s 35/6; Chillagoe, 5/, 5/1; ditto, paid, 6/, b 6/1, s 6/2; Hampden, 10/, b 10/, s 10/1; Macgregor, 5/, 5/1, b 5/1, s 5/3; Mount Elliott, 74/, b 74/, s 75/6; Mungana, 5/7, b 5/6, s 5/7; O.K. Copper, b 4/2, s 4/4; ditto, Adelaide register, 4/4, 4/3, b 4/3, s 4/4; ditto, Queensland register, b 4/2; Great Fitzroy, 12/, b 11/, s 12/.

Tin: Briseis, b 7/1, s 7/6; ditto Extended, b 60/; Cope's Creek Central, 7/6, b 7/4, s 7/7; Melbourne Cope's Creek, 5/, b 4/6, s 5/.

Victorian Gold Mines: Ajax, 14/3, 14/, b 14/, s 14/3; Berry United, 5/9, b 5/6, s 6/3; Cassilis, 11/, b 10/9, s 11/3; Cathcart, 4/10, 5/, b 5/1, s 5/3; Catherine Reef, b 21/, s 21/6; Collmann and Tacchi, 8/, b 7/9, s 8/6; Great Southern, s 22/; ditto Consols, 6/5, 6/6, b 6/5, s 6/6; Hustler's Reef, 19/, b 18/6, s 19/; Long Tunnel, £5/1/, £5/2/, b £5/1/6, s £5/2/; New Chum Goldfields, 7/6, b 7/3, s 8/; New Dempsey, 9/6, b 9/3, s 9/7; New Loch Fyne, b 6/6, s 7/3; Nuggety Ajax, 1/3½, 1/4, b 1/4, s 1/5; Russell's Reef, 2/7, 2/8, b 2/5, s 2/9; South German, b 12/3, s 13/; Star of the East, 4/6, b 4/, s 4/9; Victor's Quartz, 3/, 3/1, b 3/, s 3/2.

Western Australian Gold Mines: Barrambie Ranges, 3/11, 3/6, b 3/5, s 3/7; Black Range, 47/9, b 47/, s 48/; ditto Kohinoor, s 4/6; Chaffer's, 8/, 8/1, 8/2, b 8/2, s 8/4; Great Boulder, b 29/9; ditto Main Reef, s 7/; ditto Perseverance, b 8/2, s 8/10; Havilah, s 8/; Hannan Star, b 6/6, s 7/3; Lake View Consols, b 25/, s 25/6; Mararoa, b 17/, s 20/; Marvel Loch, s /10; Melton, b 2/9, s 3/6; Sandstone Development, b 3/; Tindal's, b 19/, s 21/.

TASMANIAN TIN-MINING.

LAUNCESTON, Wednesday.

The Pioneer mine has cleaned up 51 tons of tin ore.

The absence of water on the north-eastern tin mines so early is causing anxiety. Some mines will probably find a difficulty in resuming operations after the holidays, unless rain falls.

LONDON SHARE MARKET.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

On the Stock Exchange yesterday quotations of Australian mining ventures were:—Broken Hill Proprietary, b 40/, s 41/3; Block 10, b 63/9, s 66/3; Lake View Consols, b 23/9, s 26/3.

AUCTION SALES TO-DAY.

FURNITURE AND MERCHANDISE.

E. H. BRODRIBB.—At the Rooms, at 11, Electroplate, Carpets, Furniture, etc.

A. G. JENKINS.—At Wylde-street, Potts Point, at 11, Furniture, etc.

J. JOHNSON.—At 14 Lackey-street, Summer Hill, at 3, Ornaments, Furniture, etc.

FARM AND DAIRY PRODUCE.

W. INGLIS and SON.—At their Railway Yards, at 11, Milch Cows.

C. J. TURNER.—At the Rooms, at 12, Poultry, etc.

HORSES, VEHICLES, AND HARNESS.

W. INGLIS and SON.—At their Bazaar, at 10.30 and 12, Horses, Vehicles, and Harness.

Every bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy is warranted to do all that is claimed for it.—Advt.

THE OVERGROWN METROPOLIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Your country correspondent Mr. Fred. D. Badgery in to-day's issue of the "Herald" is unfortunate in using as an argument against centralisation of population in the metropolis the recent agitation for the resumption by the Crown of Bottle and Glass Point and other areas at Vaucluse for the purpose of creating a harbour waterside park for the people of New South Wales. The evidence of Alderman Allen Taylor before the Royal Commission as to the present and future population of Sydney and suburbs, also the relative rateable value of metropolitan and country properties and the future requirements of the metropolis, should be a sufficient answer to your correspondent. However, your correspondent's unfair attempt to discredit Mr. Arthur Griffith (a country member) for making a bold stand in Parliament to secure justice to the State electors is unjust and unwarrantable, and calls for reply.

Mr. Griffith was not asked by this committee to make the creditable stand he did in the House, but notwithstanding he deserves the thanks of all for doing so. But for his resolution being treated as if it was a party question, no doubt the 63 members of all sides of the House who are pledged to foreshore reform would have voted for it, as earlier in the session, when Mr. E. C. V. Broughton moved for the appointment of a select commission, some of the members were not fully alive to the urgency of the matter, which could then have been easily settled in a satisfactory manner to city and country electors. This course would also have enlightened the public, including your correspondent, as to the urgent need for additional foreshore reserves around Sydney and coastal resorts. The value of the Bottle and Glass Point was only £7300—not an "enormous outlay for the State," as inferred. Recently the hon. the Premier in speaking on the subject stated "that the actual cash commitments (for foreshore resumptions or purchases by the Government) where money payments became necessary, have during the last few years run into something exceeding £20,000." Just for one moment contrast this modest statement with the outlay of nearly half a million voted for the creation of gardens and drives along the banks of the Yarra by our Victorian neighbours. The thoughtful mind can easily grasp the position that as the increase of settlement takes place in the country so the population of the metropolis must proportionately increase. Factories and businesses that require machine power will always remain in the metropolis—cheapness of power being essential in these days of competition.

The question of the resumption of additional foreshore areas around Sydney for the use of the public was submitted at last elections, and a majority of members supported the proposal. Everyone knows that most of our country cousins delight in our harbour resorts, and make a beeline to the coast as opportunity offers for healthful change and recreation. This means substantial additional railway and tramway revenue, so the acquiring of adequate foreshore reserves around Sydney becomes a lucrative investment to the State in more ways than one.

Again, your correspondent thinks that the country should thank the Premier for having been the first Premier to make any serious resistance to the city's demands. Is not this rather a narrow point of view? Doubtless your correspondent has thousands of broad acres around him, and cannot place himself even in imagination in the close environment of our city toilers, who require health resorts within easy access to compensate themselves for the close confinement of the week.

In conclusion, it is to be hoped that your correspondent will make himself better acquainted with actual facts relating to the foreshores around Sydney before again dragging this subject into an argument which is quite outside the question of settling people on the land.

I am, etc.,

W. A. NOTTING,

Hon. Sec. Harbour Foreshores Vigilance Committee.

Dec. 22.

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SHOULD this meet the eye of either HENRY, MARY ELLEN, or MARGARET FOTHERBY, please write Brother Bob, who would like to hear from them. C/o Mr. R. COCKFIELD, Berriwillock, Victoria.

THANK you. I hold your promise as sacred.

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ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT-STREET.

JOE GARDINER for Xmas Footwear. His prices are fully 20 per cent. below other retailers.

SPORTING.

THE TURF.

Messrs. MacCabe, Morton, and Co. report having sold, on account of Mr. Colin Smith, of Chipping Norton, the thoroughbred mare Maid of Erin, by Gozo from Athlone, to Mr. R. C. Allen.

Bookmakers are notified by the Associated Racing Clubs that applications for registration must be made on or before Tuesday. Applications from trainers and jockeys for registration will be received on the same day.

The only forfeit in connection with Tattersall's Cup is due to-day, and horses remaining in will be liable for the full amount of the sweepstakes.

The sporting committee of the South Australian Jockey Club, at a meeting on Monday, adopted the suspension by the stewards of the Gawler Jockey Club of A. Koops, jockey, for three months from November 9, for malpractice.

A certificate of identification in the case of William (late William the First), foaled in New Zealand in 1903, by Conqueror from Morcze, has been accepted as satisfactory by the V.R.C. William ran at Aspendale on Saturday as William I.

Mr. C. L. Moorhouse has decided to try to get another race out of the veteran gelding Eldersile. The old fellow, who has enjoyed a long spell, has been handed over to Whelan, at Adelaide, and will be raced early in the new year.

The Baan Baa Race Club has decided to hold its next race meeting on January 26.

SCRATCHINGS.

The following scratchings were yesterday recorded:—

Christmas Handicap.—Caesar, Tinsel, Carl Zena, Specimen.
Flying Handicap.—Confetti, Miss Bass.
Summer Cup.—Yabba Gabba.
Nursery Handicap.—Blue Ribbon.
Tattersall's Cup.—Adriatic, Graftnot, Gaby.

VICTORIAN SPORTING NOTES.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

In connection with the Caulfield races on Saturday, the following scratchings were recorded to-day:—Steeplechase: Bobby Burns. Malvern Handicap: Ngaruhoe, Shoobra. Hurdle Race: Nightlight and Wyangarie. Juvenile Stakes: England and Sperry.

Bobby Burns, who was early in the week purchased by Mr. C. Howell, has been withdrawn from the Steeplechase to be run at Flemington on New Year's Day.

ROSEBERY RACING CLUB.

Followers of pony and galloway racing assembled in great force at Rosebery yesterday, when the final meeting of the year under the control of the associated clubs was held. The seven events brought together the largest fields seen for some time. The track was in first-class order, and good racing was witnessed. S. M'Donald rode three winners. Details:—

Fourteen-two Handicap of 30 sovs, second 3 and third 2 sovs from the prize, 4½f.—I.C., by Iago, dam unknown, 6yrs, 8st 8lb (S. M'Donald), 1; Ayr Lassie, 8st 9lb (Daly), 2; Miss Mayfield, 9st 8lb (Wagner), 3. Other starters: Skylark, 9st 10lb; Mulpera, 8st 4lb; Lady Zoin, 9st 1lb; Lord Lyon, 8st 7lb; County Clare, 8st 1lb; Energy, 7st 12lb; Bonnie Boy, 7st 5lb; War Eva, 7st 5lb, inc. 1lb over; Gay Girl, 7st 2lb; Lady Grey, 7st. Betting: 7 to 2 v I.C., 4 to 1 each v Skylark and Energy, 5 to 1 v Mulpera, 8 to 1 each v Ayr Lassie and Lord Lyon, 10 to 20 to 1 v others. Won by two lengths. Time, 54¼s.

Flying Handicap of 30 sovs, second 3 and third 2 sovs from the prize, 5½f.—Mr. Cochrane, by Lord Cochrane—dam unknown, aged, 8st 4lb (S. M'Donald), 1; Gillie, 7st 11lb (Norris), 2. Other starters: Noreen, 9st 12lb; Good Hose, 9st 10lb; Lilliaster, 8st 12lb; Reliance, 8st 8lb; Lily, 8st 2lb; Ulmarra, 8st 1lb; Footstool, 7st 10lb; Tristo, 7st 8lb, inc. 1lb over; Kimmerline, 7st 4lb; Moet, 7st; Sasin, 7st; Mahomet, 7st. Betting: 2 to 1 v Gillie, 4 to 1 v Lilliaster, 6 to 1 each v Mr. Cochrane and Reliance, 7 to 1 each v Noreen and Footstool, 10 to 15 to 1 v others. Won by a short head. No third placed. Time, 1m 11¼s.

Novice Handicap of 30 sovs, second 3 and third 2 sovs from the prize, 4½f.—First division: Possession, by Paultricist—dam unknown, aged, 8st 11lb (M'Mahon), 1; Hippona, 8st 7lb (Walsh), 2. Other starters: Dean Swift, 8st 9lb; Lady Regain, 8st 8lb; Beauclerc, 8st 5lb; Blue Metal, 8st 4lb; Fair Garobil, 8st 1lb; Branton, 8st; Murmur, 7st 11lb; Seidlitz, 7st 10lb; Reseda, 7st 9lb; Woodvine, 7st 9lb, inc. 1lb over. Betting: 6 to 4 on Hippona, 6 to 1 each v Possession and Murmur, 7 to 1 v Branton, 8 to 1 each v Blue Metal and Lady Regain, 10 to 20 to 1 v others. Won by a neck. Time, 55¼s. Second division: Flerrie Tristram, by Sir Tristram (imp.)—Flerrie, 4yrs, 7st 7lb (Norris), 1; Gradient, 7st 7lb (Foy), 2. Other starters: Cindor, 7st 9lb, inc. 1lb over; Salient, 7st 7lb; Lady Libel, 7st 7lb; Friendship, 7st 10lb, inc. 3lb over; Coin, 7st 2lb; Willie D., 7st 9lb, inc. 2lb over; Voltic, 7st 9lb, inc. 2lb overge Edna Lou, 7st 7lb; Fair Blarney, 7st 7lb. Betting: 6 to 4 v Lady Tristram, 6 to 1 each v Coin and Salient, 7 to 1 each v Edna Lou and Voltic, 10 to 20 to 1 v others. Won by a neck. Time, 55¼s. Owners divided.

Thirteen-three Handicap of 30 sovs, second 3, and the third 2 sovs from the prize, 4½f.—Miss Grace, by Cracker—Nomora, 3 years, 8st 2lb (S. M'Donald), 1; Mervette, 7st 10lb (Foy), 2; Neredah, 8st (Whitlock), 3. Other starters: Thespana, 11st 8lb; Sir William, 8st 11lb; Kathleen, 7st 10lb; Beaufleet, 7st 6lb; Scotch Mixture, 7st 3lb, inc. 1lb over; Blazeaway, 7st; Missire, 7st 2lb, inc. 2lb over; Bonnie, 7st 1½lb, inc. 1½lb over; Allarnoc, 7st. Betting: 3 to 1 v Sir William, 7 to 2 v each v Miss Grace and Thespana, 5 to 1 v Mervette, 6 to 1 v Beaufleet, 7 to 1 v Neredah, 10 to 15 to 1 v others. Won by two lengths. Time, 57½s.

Fourteen-three Handicap of 30 sovs, second 3, and third 2 sovs from the prize, 5½f.—Dalmeny Belle, by Dalmeny (imp.)—Heather Bell, 2 years, 7st 11lb (H. Russell), 1; Nellie G., 7st 3lb (Suttle), 2; Lady Mack, 7st (Moulden), 3. Other starters: Kitty Merv, 8st 12lb; Motineer, 8st 11lb; Ophir, 8st 10lb; Cymbaline, 8st 9lb; Enmie, 8st 7lb; Lady Zoin, 8st 4lb; Leslie, 7st 9lb; Steppinestone, 7st 8lb; Alberto, 7st 5lb; Worry, 7st; Allowrie, 7st. Betting: 5 to 2 v Dalmeny Belle, 3 to 1 v Kitty Merv, 4 to 1 v Leslie, 6 to 1 v Alberto, 10 to 1 v others. Won by a neck. Time, 1m 8¼s.

Fourteen-one Handicap of 30 sovs, second 3 and third 2 sovs from the prize, 4¼f.—Silver Rose, by Silver Hill—Rossley mare, aged, 9st 3lb (Norris), 1; Cecil, 7st (Dove), 2; Odd Stock, 7st 10lb, inc. 3lb over (H. Russell), 3. Other starters: Black Bess, 9st 1lb; Kurnell, 8st 10lb; Winnie, 8st 5lb; Malahide, 8st 3lb; Cronulla, 7st 11lb; Harry Dick, 7st 9lb; Alisa, 7st 9lb, inc. 1lb over; Little Fellow, 7st 7lb; Mermaid, 7st 2lb; Defiance, 7st. Betting: 2 to 1 v Silver Rose, 3 to 1 each v Kurnell and Winnie, 6 to 1 v Black Bess, 7 to 1 v Little Fellow, 10 to 15 to 1 v others. Won by three-quarters of a length. Time, 55¼s.

Rosebery Handicap of 60 sovs, second 7 and third 3 sovs from the prize, 7m.—Kyloe, by Lancaster—Angeline, 4 years, 7st 7½lb, inc. 4½lb over (Norris), 1; Simmer King, 7st 7lb, inc. 4lb over (Hannibal), 2; Cressbrook, 7st 10lb (S. M'Donald), 3. Other starters: Reliance, 8st 7lb; Merry Delaval, 8st 2lb; Royal Flush, 7st 8lb; Nerve, 7st 8lb, inc. 3lb over; Lord Warwick, 7st 2lb; Clarette, 7st 2lb; Miss Rosebery, 7st 2lb; Gabo, 7st 1lb, inc. 1lb over; St. Albans, 7st; Lady Regain, 7st; Charmion, 7st 1lb, inc. 1lb over; Zule, 7st; Step In, 7st 1lb, inc. 1lb over. Betting: 2 to 1 each v Royal Flush and Kylor, 5 to 1 v Nerve, 7 to 1 v Lord Warwick, 8 to 1 v Merry Delaval, 10 to 15 to 1 v others. Won by half a length. Time, 1m 45½s.

PALMERSTON RACES.

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), Wednesday.

Following are the winners in the Summer Handicap of 300 sovs:—McBeth's Crucinella, 7st 9lb, 1; Sir George Clifford's Glenculloch, 8st 6lb, 2; Hiebden's Vasa, 7st 6lb, 3. There were nine starters. Won by two lengths in 1m 42 1-5s.

The winners in the Palmerston North Stakes, 500 sovs, weight-for-age, are:—Macdonald's Gold Crest, 9st 5lb, 1; Foreman's Full Rate, 8st 12lb, 2; Buick's Rangipapa, 9st 6lb, 3. Six started. Won by two lengths in 1m 14s.

WAGGA RACES.

WAGGA, Wednesday.

The following weights have been declared for the Wagga Licensed Victuallers' races to be held on Boxing Day:—

Maiden Plate, 6f.—Dashaway, 8st 12lb; Stooker, 8st 12lb; Lord Gambol, 8st 11lb; North Fleet, 8st 11lb; Australasia, 8st 10lb; Welsh Girl, 8st 10lb; Dawn, 8st 10lb; Lady Olive, 8st 10lb; Naughty Miss, 8st 9lb; Koran, 8st 9lb; Trinal, 8st 4lb; Master John, 8st 1lb; Zelma, 7st 13lb.

President Stakes, 6f.—Moorcia, 9st 6lb; A.B., 9st 7lb; Doriel, 8st 10lb; Lady Gambol, 8st 3lb; Spring Chicken, 8st 1lb; Sweet Briar, 8st; Intuition, 7st 10lb; Hanseen, 7st 10lb; Redbow, 7st 9lb; Golderite, 7st 7lb; St. Alvina, 7st 5lb; Favo, 7st.

Christmas Handicap, 1m.—Lady Melena, 9st 8lb; St. Treila, 8st 12lb; Moorcia, 8st 12lb; A.B., 8st 7lb; Diabolo, 8st 7lb; Carreno, 7st 12lb; Loughrea, 7st 11lb; Spring Chicken, 7st 9lb; Hanseen, 7st; Intuition, 7st.

Ladies' Bracelet, 7f.—Fleet, 9st 5lb; Loughrea, 9st; Spring Chicken, 8st 12lb; Athalie, 8st 10lb; Sweet Briar, 8st 10lb; Red Jason, 8st 10lb; Intuition, 8st 7lb; Hanseen, 8st 7lb; St. Alvina, 8st.

Trial Handicap, 6f.—Inver, 9st 5lb; Resden, 9st; St. Alvina, 8st 12lb; Welsh Girl, 8st 9lb; Home Fleet, 8st 7lb; Lord Gambol, 8st 2lb; Dawn, 8st 2lb; Nesta, 8st; Songster, 7st 12lb; Naughty, 7st 9lb; North Fleet, 7st 9lb; Miss Koran, 7st 5lb; Leith, 6st 12lb; Inverlair, 6st 10lb.

Murrumbidgee Handicap, 7f.—Moorcia, 9st 5lb; St. Treila, 9st 3lb; A. B., 9st; Diabolo, 8st 12lb; Doriel, 8st 9lb; Carreno, 8st 4lb; Lady Gambol, 8st 2lb; Loughrea, 8st 2lb; Spring Chicken, 8st; Intuition, 7st 7lb; Hanseen, 7st 7lb; Wyambee, 6st 12lb.

WYONG JOCKEY CLUB.

The following are the weights for the Wyong Jockey Club's races on Boxing Day.

Flying Handicap, 6f.—Lady Kingsley, 9st 7lb; Ino, 9st 7lb; Mi San, 9st 4lb; Myall, 8st 4lb; Similar, 8st 4lb; Fitz Erin, 8st 4lb; Lord Orzil, 8st 4lb; Bruel, 8st 4lb; Merton Queen, 7st; Lady Lucan, 7st; Orzalite, 6st 10lb; Ontario, 6st 10lb; Ennisteen, 6st 7lb.

Hack Race, 7f.—John Brown, 10st; Goblet, 8st 10lb; Utilis, 8st 8lb; Nita, 7st 5lb; Arawa, 7st 5lb; First Kiss, 7st; Ann, 6st 7lb.

Wyong Handicap, 1¼m.—Australian Sun, 10st; The Imp, 9st 7lb; Mi San, 8st 12lb; Lady Hayden, 8st 7lb; Fitz Erin, 7st 12lb; Ingraft, 7st 12lb; Merton Queen, 6st 7lb.

Christmas Handicap, 6f.—Lady Kingsley, 9st 7lb; Ino, 9st 7lb; Myall, 8st 4lb; Similar, 8st 4lb; Fitz Erin, 8st 4lb; John Brown, 8st 4lb; Lord Orzil, 8st 4lb; Ingraft, 8st 4lb; Bruel, 8st 4lb; Goblet, 7st; Merton Queen, 7st; Lady Lucan, 7st; Orzalite, 6st 10lb; Ontario, 6st 10lb; First Kiss, 6st 7lb; Ennisteen, 6st 7lb.

Tuggerah Handicap, 1m.—The Imp, 9st 7lb; Mi San, 8st 12lb; Lady Hayden, 8st 7lb; Lord Orzil, 7st 12lb; Ingraft, 7st 12lb; Bruel, 7st 12lb; Utilis, 7st; Merton Queen, 6st 10lb; Lady Lucan, 6st 10lb; Arawa, 6st 2lb.

WALLSEND JOCKEY CLUB.

WEST MAITLAND, Wednesday.

The following weights have been declared for the first day's racing of the Wallsend Jockey Club on 26th inst:—

Shorts Handicap, 6f.—Merv Loch, 10st 5lb; Blue Foam, 9st 12lb; Belle, 9st 12lb; Nevelle, 9st 10lb; Winsome, 9st; Highwood, 8st 8lb; Alice Court, 8st 8lb; Attention, 8st 8lb; Suez, 8st 8lb; Hexham, 8st 8lb; Lady Hoyden, 8st; Virginian, 7st 7lb.

Borough Handicap, 6f.—Antelope, 9st 5lb; Stars and Stripes, 9st; Dorquilla, 8st 5lb; Isla, 8st 5lb; Mirrie, 8st 5lb; Fitz Merv, 8st 5lb; The Robber, 8st 5lb; Patrovine, 7st 10lb; Electrician, 7st.

Welter Handicap, 7f.—The Climax, 10st 12lb; Queenie's Court, 10st 9lb; Miracle, 9st 5lb; Hollyan, 9st 5lb; Lady Ascot, 8st 3lb; Eli, 8st 3lb; Kamba, 7st 7lb; George, 7st 7lb; Bridesman, 7st 7lb; Carol, 7st 7lb.

Town Plate, 1¼m.—Simmiloquist, 10st 2lb; Kapai, 8st 8lb; Breckenberg, 8st 4lb; Miss Charge, 8st 4lb; Attention, 7st 12lb; Dormaid, 7st 10lb; Point Piper, 7st 7lb; True Colours, 7st 7lb; Chaperon, 7st 2lb; Saidy, 6st 7lb.

Trial Handicap, 6f.—Medic, 9st 5lb; Patrovine, 8st 6lb; Burleigh, 7st 10lb; Merv Alma, 7st 10lb; Orza Light, 7st 10lb; Alter Ego, 7st 10lb; Billycan, 7st 10lb; Una Vocce, 7st 10lb; Plu, 7st 7lb; Lady Lavinia, 7st 7lb; Merleen, 7st 7lb.

Stewards' Mile.—The Climax, 9st 12lb; Blue Foam, 9st 9lb; First Consul, 9st 9lb; Ismailia, 9st 5lb; Kapai, 8st 8lb; Breckenberg, 8st 4lb; Dormaid, 7st 10lb; Estafette, 7st 10lb; Mantonia, 7st 10lb; True Colours, 7st 7lb; Lochnagah, 7st 2lb; Saidy, 6st 7lb; Kamba, 6st 7lb.

COLLARENDABRI RACES.

COLLARENDABRI, Wednesday.

The following weights have been declared for the two principal events to be run at the hospital race meeting on New Year's Day:—

Opening Handicap, 6f.—Dalrymple, 11st 5lb; Sleepy, 11st; King, 10st 5lb; Starlight, 10st 2lb; Amusement, 9st 8lb; Tingha, 9st 5lb; Prematuress, 9st 5lb; Rumour, 9st 5lb.

Hospital Handicap, 1m.—Dalrymple, 11st 2lb; Sleepy, 10st 11lb; King, 10st 2lb; Starlight, 9st 13lb; Amusement, 9st 5lb; Prematuress, 9st 2lb; Rumour, 9st 2lb.

PORTLAND JOCKEY CLUB.

The following weights have been declared for the Christmas meeting of the Portland Jockey Club, to be held on Boxing Day:—

Opening Handicap, 6f.—Glenella, 9st 5lb; Hautaaway, 8st 10lb; Thona, 8st 3lb; Allen, 7st 13lb; Locket, 6st 12lb.

Novice Handicap, 6f.—Lord Trydon, 9st; Ironmaster, 8st 12lb; Magic, 8st 12lb; Scud, 8st 11lb; Grandor, 8st 11lb; Memory, 8st 9lb; Bangaroo, 7st 12lb.

Jockey Club Handicap, 1m.—Glenella, 9st 5lb; Hautaway, 8st 10lb; Thona, 8st 3lb; Allen, 7st 13lb.

Welter Handicap, 6f.—Allen, 9st 9lb; Locket, 8st 8lb; Ironmaster, 8st 5lb; Magic, 8st; Memory, 7st 12lb; Scud, 7st 12lb; Bangaroo, 7st 7lb; Grandor, 7st 7lb.

BARADINE RACES.

BARADINE, Wednesday.

The following weights have been declared for the Baradine amateur races to be held on January 1 and 2:—

Opening Handicap of £15, 6f.—Marker, 11st 10lb; Roumaney, 11st 7lb; Pupil, 11st 2lb; Italicia, 11st 1lb; Pauline, 11st 1lb; Moonambilla, 11st; Molly Bawn, 10st 11lb; Autimon, 10st 9lb; Glister, 10st 9lb; Scotchy, 10st 9lb; Sting, 9st 7lb.

Members' Handicap of £30, 1m (grass-feds).—Marker, 11st 10lb; Roumaney, 11st 4lb; Stoll, 11st 3lb; Pupil, 10st 3lb; Pauline, 10st 12lb; Moorambilla, 10st 11lb; Molly Bawn, 10st 8lb; Glister, 10st 6lb; Map, 10st 5lb; Scotchy, 10st 4lb.

New Year Gift of £20, 7f (corn-feds).—Piambia, 11st 2lb; Flame, 10st 9lb; Gold Lock, 10st 12lb; Norseman, 9st 12lb; Scoreen, 9st 8lb; Olive, 9st 7lb; Matouree, 9st 5lb; Playbell, 9st 5lb.

Baradine Cup of £35, 1¼m (corn-feds).—Piambia, 11st; Flame, 10st 7lb; Gold Lock, 10st; Marker, 9st 12lb; Norseman, 9st 10lb; Scoreen, 9st 6lb; Olive, 9st 5lb; Matouree, 9st 5lb; Playbell, 9st 5lb.

CARROLL JOCKEY CLUB.

WEST MAITLAND, Wednesday.

The following weights have been declared for the Carroll Jockey Club's races, to be held on Boxing Day:—

Flying Handicap, 6f.—Lady Havoc, 10st 6lb; Celerity, 9st 12lb; Chesby, 8st 10lb; Hunter, 8st 10lb; Nancy, 7st 6lb; Dado, 7st 2lb; M'Nevin, 7st 2lb; Victoria, 7st 2lb.

Carroll Handicap, 7f.—Lady Havoc, 10st 3lb; Celerity, 9st 9lb; Hunter, 8st 8lb; Chesby, 8st 6lb; Nancy, 7st 3lb; Victoria, 6st 12lb.

BLANDFORD JOCKEY CLUB.

WEST MAITLAND, Wednesday.

The following weights have been declared for the Blandford Jockey Club's races, to be held on Boxing Day:—

Opening Handicap, 6f.—Remmis, 9st 6lb; Joe (late Lazy Bill), 7st 9lb; Washpool, 7st 5lb; Dealeress, 7st; Outcast, 7st; Musk, 7st.

Christmas Gift, 1m.—Remmis, 9st 5lb; Blackthorn, 7st 12lb; Joe (late Lazy Bill), 7st 9lb; Washpool, 7st 5lb; Dealeress, 7st; Outcast, 7st; Musk, 7st.

CRICKET.

COMBINED GRAMMAR SCHOOLS v UNIVERSITY.

Played on Sydney Grammar School's wicket, Rushcutter Bay, and won by University by 19 runs. Scores:—

Combined Grammar Schools.

E. P. Barbour, c Fisher, b French	52
W. L. Jack, at Docker, b French	5
L. L. Dean, lbw, b French	0
E. F. Herring, c Nathan, b Broughton	18
C. Buckley, c Docker, b Matthews	57
N. Dean, b Mackay	33
G. P. Barbour, run out	2
C. Sheldon, b Nathan	2
F. Moule, b Broughton	22
A. O. Wood, not out	1
L. Scott, at Docker, b Broughton	0
Sundries	11
Total	203

Bowling: French, three for 47; Nathan, one for 32; Matthews, one for 36; Broughton, three for 40; Utz, none for 28; Mackay, one for 10.

University.

E. S. Docker, run out	8
H. H. Massie, c Monk, b Scott	25
B. Lane, b Scott	15
T. Williams, b Barbour	60
W. F. Matthews, st O'H. Wood, b Barbour	1
T. G. Mackay, c and b Barbour	0
E. M. Fisher, c sub, b Moule	8
G. G. Nathan, c Moule, b Scott	27
E. N. Broughton, c and b Barbour	0
K. Utz, b Barbour	23
W. R. French, not out	20
Sundries	25
Total	222

Bowling: Scott, three for 58; Barbour, five for 88; Moule, one for 23; Buckley, none for 11; Sheldon, none for 7.

JUNIOR UNION.

In connection with the extra matches arranged by the Combined Associations' Union at Christmas, the following have been selected:—

Again Victoria:—T. H. Comber (captain), C. Bowler, S. Shea (Centennial Park C.A.), W. Medcalfe (Balmain and District C.A.), W. Bower, H. M'Donald, W. Lewis (Western Suburbs C.A.), H. Shipway (Moore Park C.A.), J. Farr (St. George C.A.), J. Norton (Western Suburbs Churches C.U.), S. Brainwood (Northern Suburbs C.A.).

Again Wyalong Goldfields:—F. Vaughan (captain), T. Andrews, L. Heydon (Western Suburbs C.A.), F. Smith, J. Hodgson, L. Lynch (Moore Park C.A.), E. Ryall (Eastern Suburbs C.A.), W. Brogden (Western Suburbs Churches C.U.), H. Evans (Metropolitan Churches C.U.), T. Wells (Centennial Park C.A.), W. Burke (Northern Suburbs C.A.).

The former match will take place at Waverley Oval and the latter at Rushcutter Bay, both commencing at 2 p.m. Those unable to play are requested to inform Mr. L. Harvey, hon. sec. of the Junior Union, without delay.

C. Crispo (St. George) is unable to play for N.S.W. Juniors v Victoria, and his place has been taken by G. Little.

SECOND GRADE v WEDNESDAY SPORTS UNION.

The second grade team chosen to meet a side representing the Wednesday Sports Union on Boxing Day at 11 a.m. at Manly Oval is as follows:—O. B. Williams (University), R. Taylor (Petersham), W. Smith and J. Christie (Glebe), W. W. Chapman (captain) and S. Moore (Mosman), G. Sayers (N. Sydney), C. Graham, wicketkeeper (Paddington), J. M'Lachlan and Keys (Sydney), P. Tye (M. Harbour), W. M'Leod (Leichhardt), 12th.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday.

The following will represent Mr. C. Cody's team in an all-day's match against Redfern on Redfern Oval, on Boxing Day:—Hopkins, Wonders, Patfield, Maloney, Kelly, Peters, Moroney, Stevens, Curran, Hancock, Cody, and Norbert Callen (manager).

CYCLING AND MOTORING.

CAMDEN CYCLING CLUB.

Following are the handicaps for the big sports meeting at Camden. The distances of the races are three-quarters of a mile, half-mile, and one mile:—Jas. Pinkerton, scratch, scratch; J. T. Summers, 10 yards, 20 yards; Sid. Robinson, 20, 40; F. D. Andrews, Dr. F. W. West, G. V. Sidman, 40, 80; R. Hird, A. Aplin, 45, 90; J. H. Hagney, W. Morling, W. D. Goulters, 50, 100; F. Benassai, H. G. Watts, 55, 110; C. H. Clark, 60, 120; A. Walcott, F. D. Walcott, 10, 60, 120; C. W. Butler F. E. Shaw, C. Cassidy, B. C. Nesbitt, A. H. Craw, 60, 120; F. W. Harris, C. J. Sutton, 10, 60, 120; W. J. Taplin, H. Lundie, J. O. Tickner, W. Cotterell, R. Sidman, C. Ryman, H. W. Duck, 65, 130; A. E. Watson, 70, 140; W. Welsh, 30, 70, 140; F. S. Waters, W. G. Waters, C. Webb, 70, 140; H. G. Sheil, W. Gatgens, G. Tuckwell, C. Welsh, 30, 75, 150; A. L. Richards, 60, 85, 170; P. T. Smith, 60, 85, 170; W. A. Lipscombe, 60, 85, 170; F. Wilds, 75, 150; C. O'Brien, 70; M. O'Brien, 70, 90; F. Duck, scratch; Roy Doust, 50; A. C. Poole, 20.

ROWING.

MATTERSON v STRANEY.

Considerable interest is centring locally in the match for £50 between George Matterson (brother of Neil Matterson, the one-time aspirant to championship honours) and Arthur Straney, of Oatley, which is to be decided on January 2. Both men have put in a solid course of training, and a close contest is expected. The race will be rowed over a course on George's River, from Tom Ugly's Point to Como Bridge, about 2½ miles. Owing to the indisposition of the ex-champion, W. Beach, who had agreed to officiate as umpire, another official has to be selected. Mr. Elias Laycock, senr., is to act as judge. This event carries with it the championship of George's River.

SWIMMING.

THE NORTH SYDNEY DISTRICT CLUB.

On Tuesday evening, at the municipal baths, Lavender Bay, the North Sydney Club held a 50 yards general handicap, open to both junior and senior members of the club:—Results:—First heat: A. Haynes, 16s, 1; J. Gordon, 11s, 2; T. Wager, 9s, 3. Time, 39s. Second heat: B. N. Poole, 19s, 1; N. B. Pitt, 5s, 2; E. L. Browne, 3s, 3. Time, 42s. Third heat: V. Youl, 6s, 1; A. E. Agutter, 6s, 2; L. Solomons, scr, 3. Time, 39⅖s. Fourth heat: H. Roberts, 6s, 1; C. Reynolds, 5s, 2; F. Schwars, 3s, 3. Time, 31s. Fifth heat: N. J. Murphy, 6s, 1; G. Kerslake, 8s, 2; H. L. Pitt, 5s, 3. Time, 30⅘s. Final: A. Haynes, 16s, 1; H. Roberts, 6s, 2; V. Youl, 6s, 3. Time, 39s.

WENTWORTH LADIES' SWIMMING CLUB.

The above club held two handicaps at the Coogee Aquarium on Monday afternoon. Results:—

66 Yards Handicap.—First heat: Miss Estelle Hayes, 13s, and Miss Dorothy Bulk, 11s, dead-heat, 1; Miss Isabel Harris, 13s, 3. Second heat: Miss Nellie Meads, 8s, 1; Miss Flora Forder, 5s, 2; Miss Gladys Alldritt, 7s, 3. Third heat: Miss Gladys Tate, scr, and Miss Mabel Hill 4s, dead-heat, 1; Miss Jessie Kerr, 16s, 3. Final: Miss Gladys Tate, scr, and Miss Jessie Kerr, 16s, dead-heat, 1.

33 Yards Handicap.—First heat: Miss Rose Evans, scr, 1; Miss Leah Solomon, 3s, 2; Miss Winnie Main, 3s, 3. Second heat: Miss Alice Docker, 19s, 1; Miss Alma Hayes, 5s, 2; Miss Elsie Hill, 3s, 3. Final: Miss Alice Docker, 19s, 1; Miss Rose Evans, scr, 2; Miss Leah Solomon, 3s, 3.

BRISBANE TEST RACES.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

The final test swimming race this evening, over 440yds, resulted in a win for A. R. Harrower, 1; C. Graham (Syds), 2, in 5m 48⅘s. It was unanimously resolved that Graham be the representative of the State in Sydney. E. Wettzel was appointed delegate to the Australasian conference, and manager of the team, which includes J. A. Lamont (Toowong), D. Harrower (N. Brisbane), L. Dowser, and C. Alley (Rockhampton), A. M. Taylor (Darling Downs), T. Trenfield (Toowong), W. Kuder, J. Pike (North Brisbane), and G. Hollingsworth (Church Institute).

BILLIARDS.

LINDRUM v GRAY.

GRAY'S FINE FORM.

The billiard match between the Australian champion, Fred. Lindrum, and George Gray, jun., was continued at the Queen's Hall, Pitt-street, yesterday. Lindrum is conceding Gray 1000 start in a match of 14,000 up. At the opening of the session yesterday the scores were:—Lindrum (in play), 1400; Gray, 4558. There was a good attendance. Gray was in capital form, and being let in often through the failure of Lindrum put up some useful breaks, and exhibited fine control of the balls during their progress. He appeared to have gauged the strength of the table accurately, while Lindrum was for a time below form. Gray's best breaks were 31, 109, 37, 108, 41, 40, and 89. Lindrum got into touch after a useful break of 92, and thereafter put up figures which ran him to his points. His breaks were 92, 36, 29, 120, 115, 46, 55, 41, and 35 unfinished. At the adjournment the scores were:—Lindrum (in play), 2301; Gray, 5129, the latter having scored 571 during the afternoon.

At night there was a good attendance, and cordial approval was manifested at each good stroke. Lindrum carried his unfinished break of 35 to 89. Gray scored two small breaks, and then put up 50, chiefly off the red. He followed this with a capital break of 132. The first 81 of these were losing hazards off the red into the side pockets. Losing position for more hazards, the young player played a cannon, and then ran through the white to clear it away from the middle of the table. Continuing with the red, he scored the rest of the break mostly off it until he failed at a difficult hazard at the top of the table. The table was faster than during the opening day, and the balls were not so lively. After a short innings by Lindrum, the boy player scored 50, at the close of which he had to play a beautiful masse, which was successfully negotiated, but the balls ran into dead-line again, and in trying for another masse Gray curled round both the other balls and his ball ran into the middle pocket, leaving Lindrum safe. Gray was in scoring humour, and after compiling 48 and 103 he added 104, of which 99 were off the red. The quality of the play was distinctly high-class. Lindrum scored 51 in two minutes, and Gray 33 consecutive losers off the red. Lindrum's cue-tip was troubling him, and he felt no confidence in it for strokes necessitating side. Gray's last effort was 176 unfinished, and it was a masterly compilation, during which the player showed no sign of tiring. The scores at the close of the session were:—Lindrum, 2353; Gray, 6001.

The best breaks for the evening session were:—Lindrum, 89, 65, 56, 51, 53, and 37; Gray, 50, 132, 48, 103, 104, 99, 43, and 176 (unfinished).

STEVENSON v DAWSON.

When latest English files to hand closed, Stevenson and Dawson were engaged upon a match of 2000 up on level terms, and the game stood:—Stevenson (in play), 5830; Dawson, 4679.

BOXING.

CRIPPS KNOCKS OUT GRIFFIN.

A big attendance at the Stadium last night witnessed what proved to be a good contest between Arthur Cripps and "Jim" Griffin. The struggle was full of merit from the start, until the eleventh round, when Cripps put in a strong right-hand knockout blow, and was declared the winner.

THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

REFEREE NOT YET APPOINTED.

Up to last night the principals in the world's championship had not agreed upon a referee for the big fight on Saturday morning. If they cannot decide this morning by 11 o'clock Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh will, as provided by the articles of agreement, select the referee.

POLICE COURTS.

ALLEGED INGRATITUDE.

William Lawrence King, 22, a seaman, was presented yesterday at the Water Police Court on a charge of stealing in the dwelling-house of Thomas Pearn, 121 George-street, on or about December 22, the property of Lee Combs, a straw case containing a quantity of articles of clothing, 200 American dollars, and other goods, valued at about £50. The prosecutor, a seaman, stated that on December 21 he was residing at the Sailors' Home. He first met accused on board the steamer Hornby Grange, at Manila, and they arrived in Sydney on the 14th inst. After an interval of five days they met in town and entered into conversation, accused saying he was hard up, whereupon witness gave him half-a-crown and paid his board and lodging at the Sailors' Home for a week. The basket produced was his property, and was in his room at the Home. On Monday night last they were together in a hotel when witness told accused that he intended to leave the Sailors' Home that night. Witness did not return to the home that night, although accused did, but when he got there in the morning he missed the straw case and its contents, which he valued at £50. Accused, who had nothing to say, was committed for trial.

WHARF-LABOURER'S LAPSE.

John Steel, 53, a wharf-labourer, was charged at the Water Police Court yesterday, before Mr. G. H. Smithers, S.M., with having on December 9 stolen four handkerchiefs, of the value of 2s, the property of Captain Priske, on the steamer Essex, then lying in Port Jackson. The case for the prosecution was that the goods were taken from a broached case on the vessel. Steel, in his defence, stated that he picked them up, and intended to hand them to the ship's officer. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, but the sentence was suspended under the provisions of the Crimes Act relating to first offenders, and he was ordered to pay £2 2s costs, or in default 21 days, Mr. Smithers remarking that it was one of the most impudent defences he had heard.

A PAINFUL CASE.

At the Redfern Police Court, Margaret Carter, 19, a married woman, was charged with having stolen a costume and skirt, valued at 16s, the property of Winn and Co., at Redfern, on December 19. Mr. Howarth appeared for the defence. The accused pleaded guilty. It was stated that she was seen to take the articles from a table in the shop, and put them under her cloak. The husband of the accused gave evidence that for the past three years his wife had been in very indifferent health, and was not as strong mentally as she used to be. She occasionally took a little drink, and was not then responsible for her actions. In this case she remembered nothing about taking the goods. It was her first appearance in court, and he would guarantee that she would not appear again under similar circumstances.

The magistrate said he would make the sentence light in view of the explanation of the husband, and also his promise that it would not occur again. She was ordered to be imprisoned until the rising of the court.

INCITING A PRISONER.

At the Glebe Police Court, before Mr. Barnett, S.M., John M'Lear, 20, was charged with having incited a person to resist. It was stated that the accused and others were outside an hotel. The constable had a man in custody, and accused told him not to go with the officer. The result was that the prisoner became very violent. The accused was under the influence of liquor, and ran away. He was fined £1, and 6s costs, in default imprisonment for 14 days.

SUNDAY TRADING.

At the Redfern Police Court, before Mr. King, D.S.M., William J. Bryson, of 15 Regent-street, Redfern, tobacconist, was charged with having sold cigarettes on Sunday. He was fined £2, and 6s costs, in default imprisonment for one month.

TWO UP.

At the Redfern Police Court, before Mr. King, D.S.M., Percy C. O'Brien, 17, was charged with having played "two up." He was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one month, but the sentence was suspended upon the accused finding securities to be of good behaviour for 12 months. Joseph Casey, 23, and Robert Watson, 19, were similarly charged. Mr. Sullivan appeared for Casey. Both the accused pleaded guilty. Mr. Sullivan produced a medical certificate for Casey showing that he had been suffering from heart disease for six years, and was getting worse. Each of the accused was sentenced to be imprisoned for one month, but the sentence was suspended.

THROWING A MISSILE.

At the Redfern Police Court yesterday, before Mr. King, D.S.M., Michael Galloway, 43, was charged with having thrown a missile. The accused pleaded guilty. It was stated that he threw a lemonade bottle wantonly at a number of persons passing in Wells-street, Redfern. He was fined £2, in default imprisonment for one month.

FAN TAN AT WATERLOO.

At the Redfern Police Court, before Mr. King, D.S.M., two Chinese named Ye Fook, 52, and Ah Why, 42, were charged with having played fan tan. Mr. J. J. Carroll appeared for the accused, and pleaded guilty. It was stated that Sergeant Harrison and a constable found eight or ten Chinese seated around a table playing fan tan. They arrested the two accused because they were the banker and croupier, and the others got away. The accused were each sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for seven days, and it was ordered that the instruments of gaming seized should be forfeited.

ASSAULTING A CONSTABLE.

At the Redfern Police Court, before Mr. King, D.S.M., Arthur Ridgway, 18, was charged with having assaulted Constable Martin Quigley. The accused pleaded guilty. It was stated that he kicked the Constable several times on the ankle while being taken to the police station. He was fined £3, in default imprisonment for one month.

FILTHY PREMISES.

NEAR THE TOWN HALL.

Henry Wilks was proceeded against by Inspector Duncan, of the City Council, for having allowed filth to remain on his premises. The case was heard at the Central Summons Court yesterday, before Mr. Barnett, S.M. Defendant, who is a dentist, occupying the premises situate in George-street, adjacent to the Town Hall, did not appear. The officer who visited the premises said that defendant occupied six rooms in the building, some of which he used for the purposes of his profession. Defendant was the owner of a bull-terrier, which had the run of the premises. The premises were without a yard. On the stairs and upon the balcony was filth which had the appearance of having been there about a fortnight. The stairs were used by the public.

A fine of £5, with 6s costs, or in default one month's imprisonment, was imposed.

MISSING POSTAL NOTES.

Robert Leslie Poulton was charged at the Hornsby Court with stealing on November 18 and October 21 letters containing postal notes from the Hornsby Post-office.

Defendant was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions. Bail was allowed, self £40, and one surety of £40.

A RASH ACT.

A young labourer named Charles Fletcher pleaded guilty at the Central Police Court to a charge of having maliciously damaged a window to the extent of 15s. The window was the property of Jack Chong. Chong told the Court that as he was standing outside his residence defendant, with two others, asked him for a shilling. On being refused defendant asked for 6d. As the prosecutor did not feel inclined to give him it Fletcher put his fist through the glass. A fine of £1 was imposed, and defendant was ordered to pay the amount of damage, or in default 21 days.

PERSONAL CHARM is the natural accompaniment of a beautiful complexion, and a beautiful complexion is the natural result of using PEARS'. Matchless for the Complexion.—Advt.

AMUSEMENTS.

BANK DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The Criterion Theatre was well filled last night when the Bank of New South Wales Musical and Dramatic Society gave a bright performance of "The Solicitor," under the experienced stage direction of Mr. John H. Allen. The piece, which was originally staged here rather more than a decade ago by the Broughs, is written by J. H. Darnley very much upon the lines of the farcical pieces which delight Parisian audiences. Husbands and wives are for ever dodging and pursuing each other in and out of rooms, matrimonial happiness is thrown about like a tennis ball, and the Divorce Court seems the possible goal to which all are tending. However, another shake of the kaleidoscope reveals the innocence of the comedy intrigue, and shows that Mrs. Gilbert Brandon's only betrayer is a too-extravagant modiste's bill, and that when she was apparently embracing Private Manners, that recruit to the Foot Guards was, after all, her own brother. Though the play requires very light handling, and a gifted comedian for the part of the bewildered Brandon (the solicitor), yet the amateur club contrived to give a creditable representation. Mr. A. B. Dickinson played the chief character with plenty of aplomb, and though Mr. H. Baxter was unfortunately ill, the part of Captain Midhurst was rendered with unexpected confidence by Mr. S. Everett. Miss Nellie Woodgate as Mrs. Brandon capitally suggested that lady's fright at the loss of her diamonds, and the cast included Messrs. P. H. Brown, E. F. Brown, C. B. Snodgrass, C. J. Clifton, W. A. Lloyd, Gordon Cameron, Misses Tessie Ashton, Ruby Waddell, Brenda Wilson, and Doris Usher. Mr. W. H. M'Carthy conducted the society's orchestra (led by Mr. W. Robjohns) in vivacious selections of music, and the applause showed that the entertainment was generally appreciated.

NORTH SYDNEY MUSICAL SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance at the North Sydney Masonic Hall on Tuesday night, when the North Sydney Musical Society, under the conductorship of Mr. G. Faunce Allman, gave several of the choruses from Handel's "Messiah." The remainder of an interesting programme was contributed to by Miss Geraldine Rivers ("Through Sunny Spain" and "Summer Serenade"); Miss Dora Rancland (violin selections); Miss Enid Allman (recitations); and Mr. Chas. Rolfe ("The Bandolero" and "Sussa").

MOSMAN CARNIVAL.

Preparations are being made for a harbour carnival to-night. The whole of the foreshores from the water's edge to the topmost heights of the hills at Mosman are to be illuminated, and several hundred small boats will be on the bay, each carrying two or three Chinese lanterns. A large choir and orchestra will be seated on a great illuminated barge. The Sydney Ferries have arranged for special services to Mosman's Bay. A collection is to be taken up in aid of the Royal North Shore Hospital.

ADA CROSSLEY AT GOULBURN.

GOULBURN, Wednesday.

An enthusiastic audience greeted the Ada Crossley company to-night. The contralto was in superb voice, and caused quite a furore. She was presented with floral tributes from the Liedertafel and Musical and Operatic Society.

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON AGED WOMAN.

At the Redfern Police Court, before Mr. King, D.S.M., Elizabeth Pierce, 38, a married woman, was charged with having inflicted grievous bodily harm upon an aged woman named Susan Clyne, at Redfern, on December 5.

Senior-constable Moore said when he called upon the accused in reference to the matter he said, "I am told you seriously assaulted old Mrs. Clyne." She replied, "Yes, I hit her. I flattened her out with an iron bar, and sent her flying out of the door. She came into my house and she scratched my face while I was in bed sick. I'd serve anyone the same who did as she did." Witness told the accused that the old lady was very ill, and might die, and she had better be careful what she said, so as not to incriminate herself. She picked up the piece of iron produced, which was part of a bedstead, and said, "This is what I hit her with."

Dr. Brookes, of Prince Alfred Hospital, described the injuries. The wound was not likely to prove fatal with care, but she had suffered much from the injuries and from shock. The outer shell of the skull was slightly fractured.

Susan Clyne, who had to be helped into the witness box, and who was very feeble, and apparently about 75 years of age, said she was a widow. She had been residing with the accused until a month ago. On the day in question she went to get some trinkets she had left behind her at accused's place. The door was ajar. When she went in the accused was in the kitchen. As soon as she saw witness she called out bad names. Witness tried to get out by the back way, but the accused stopped her, and hit her over the head with a piece of iron. She struck her six severe blows. Witness put up her hands to save herself, and got two cracks on the hands. The others she got on the head.

A next-door neighbour named Mrs. A. Keefe said she saw the accused with the iron in her hand. She said, "I have slaughtered her and taken my own part." A minute later witness saw Susan Clyne come out of the front door with blood streaming down her face. She was screaming out. Witness got hold of her and took her into witness's place, then sent for a cab, and had her removed to the hospital.

The accused, who reserved her defence, was committed for trial. Bail was not asked for.

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IT'S CHRISTMAS

And Good Cheer is around you.

You will be exchanging the season's greetings with your friends. You want to get and give the best, and in obtaining **USHER'S WHISKY** you are protecting your friends and yourself.

USHER'S is essentially a light whisky, and the reason is that the malt is Highland Malt, which is the most expensivo and best made.

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HOTEL, heart George-st, tkg. £200 wk., all 6d drinks, £3000. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

HOTEL, North Sydney, free house, no opposition, tkgs. £85 wk., £1300. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

HOTEL, continuance, 8 x 36's Tooth's beer, proof, new house, £650 cash. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

HOTEL, near Foy's, lease 12 yrs., rent £5, tkg. £15, £350. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

HOTEL, suburban, free, tkg. £30 wk., rent £2, £300, offer. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

HOTEL, main rd, Tooth's house, 6 x 18, must be sold to-day, £150. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

COUNTRY HOTEL, clears £1000 p. a., free house, £1800 cash. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

COUNTRY HOTEL, western, tkgs. £50 wkly., price £150. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

BUTCHERY, cash trade £110 weekly, licensed shop, highest prices, price £300. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

BAKERY, 15 tons monthly at 7¼d, large smallgoods trade, price £500. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

BOARDING-HOUSE, 20 rooms, beautifully fur., 4 miles, court, bath-house, etc. £450. Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

BILLIARD Saloon, Hairdressing, well fitted, appointed, clears £5 wk., £100, stock val. Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

STEAM LAUNDRY, complete plant, clears £8 wkly., 2 wks.' trial, £250, terms. Ivan Henry, Pitt-st.

RESIDENTIAL Chambers, heart of city, 14 rooms, always let, a gift, £200. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

FANCY Goods, Stationery, tkgs. £25 wk., large profits, stock at valuation. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

REFRESHMENT and Grill Rooms, excellent position, seat 100 at one sitting, £175. Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

GROCERY, cash trade £40 weekly, any trial, price £120. Ivan Henry, 131 Pitt-st.

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BOARDING-HOUSE, select position, 16 rooms, rent 35s, well furn., piano, 15 perm., £175. Joseph.

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MIXED, near 2 schools, genuine trade, rent 10s, good res., well stocked, £30. Joseph and Co.

NEWS Agency, Stationery, clear profits £5 weekly, trial, chance seldom offered, £200, Joseph, Co.

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RYAN.—Hotel, Geo.-st, central pos., takes £90 wkly., 2 bars, gd. profit-makg. house, £1500.

RYAN.—Hotel, sub., 6 yrs.' lse., rent £2, free house, takes £25 wk., price £350. 114A Pitt-st.

RYAN.—Hotel, working man's sub., draws 4 x 36 xxx wkly., 9 yrs.' lease, low rent, £800.

RYAN.—Hotel, marine sub., many years in same hands, 10 yrs.' lse., takes £100 wk., free, £2000.

RYAN.—Hotel, rent 30s, takes £25 wkly., £325. Hotel, Surry H., wants working up, £100.

RYAN.—Hotel, South Coast, leadg. comm., owner compelled sell thr. illness, t. £90 w., £2050.

RYAN.—Hotel, North Coast Freehold, rental £171 yrly., £1600. Hotel, S.W. town., t. £70, can fin.

WARDEN, Hofnung's chambers, 162 Pitt-st, next to G.P.O.

WARDEN, 163 Pitt-st.—Hotel, by the sea, lse. 9 y., rt. 30s w., gd. livg., comf. home, £200, inc. stk.

WARDEN, 163 Pitt-st.—Hotel, splendid city position, lease 7½ years, takings £100 week. £2200.

WARDEN, 163 Pitt-st.—Hotel, few miles out, lease 6 y., rt. 30s wk., takings £25 wk. £225.

WARDEN.—Hotel, with splendid prospect, low rent, av. proof trade, 19 x 27's mth. £225.

TEN O'Clock To-night—that's when Joe Gardiner's Boot Stores close, Oxford-st and George-st.

PRODUCES NR. £6 A WK. CLEAR OF EXPENSES.
Ready Money General Store Business,
Within 15 miles of Sydney.
No Opposition.
Cash trade, £35 to £40 a week.
Big profits, rent £1, fine roomy dwelling of 6 rooms, 2 shop windows, anxious sell now.
£150 Stock.
Progressive, Advancing Locality,
Above facts Substantiated.
WILLIAM BUTLER and CO., 138 Pitt-st, opp. Strand.

O. L. WILLIAMS, 71 Elizabeth-street, the best established and most favourably known Business Broker in the Commonwealth and New Zealand, offers the best and most genuine list of GROCERIES, NEWS AGENCIES, STATIONERIES, CONFECTIONERIES, BUTCHERIES, RESTAURANTS, TEA ROOMS, HAM and BEEF, BOARD and LODGING HOUSES, HAIRDRESSING and TOBACCONISTS', and Businesses of every description. All information free, and no charge made to buyers. Call and inspect his list if you require any kind of Business.

THE COMMERCIAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION, 146 King-street.—BAKERY, country, output 2300, good plant. Bakery and General Store, country, £350. Bakery, western town, output 1600, £135. Butchery, 5 bodies, 60 sheep, 12 sundries week, £230. Butchery, 4 bodies, 66 sheep, £150. General Store, including good horse, cart, £170. Boarding-house, Darlinghurst, 9 boarders, well fur., £170. Financial assistance given.

THERE'S a bigger variety in Footwear at Joe Gardiner's than at any other boot store. Note that.

SUBURBAN DAIRY.—Splendid Business for a Worker, advancing neighbourhood, good prospects, 17 cows, 4 horses, carts, chaffcutter, all utensils, old established connection, stand investigation. A Bargain, only £250.
ROBERT W. J. HARLEY, 5 Moore-street, Sydney.

COACHBUILDER'S, WHEELWRIGHT'S, and BLACKSMITH'S BUSINESS for Sale, cheap; commodious new premises, leading business in a rising North Coast town in N.S.W. Full particulars from
R. W. THOMPSON, Jun., and CO.,
Auctioneers, Mullumbimby.

TEN O'Clock To-night—that's when Joe Gardiner's Boot Stores close, Oxford-st and George-st.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

COUNTRY HOTEL, close station, favourite tourist resort, free house, about 28 rooms, outoffices, etc., lease 7 years, rent £3, average takings £30 to £35, plenty ground, nice garden, tennis court, owner called to another State on urgent bus., a gen. concern, £425. BRODIE and CO., 49 Elizabeth-street.

JOE GARDINER'S two Boot Stores Closed all day tomorrow and Sat. Open till 10 o'clock to-night.

JERDAN'S, "My Opticians," leading house for Spectacles, give mother or father a pair this Xmas.

T. QUINN and COMPANY, LTD., Hotel Brokers and Business Agents.—See our list before investing elsewhere. Inspection invited. T. QUINN and COMPANY, Ltd., 76A Pitt-street (only).

BUSINESSES FOR SALE OR WANTED.

BOSTOCK-SHANLEY,
12 Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

We have been specially instructed to sell a HOTEL in the Suburbs with a lease of 20 years, rent £4, trade £120 weekly, 9 x 54's, Tooth's, £2000.

OPEN till 10 o'clock to-night—Joe Gardiner's two Boot Stores, George-st and Oxford-st.

ESTABLISHED 25 years, CARRIER'S BUSINESS, comprising House, Waggon, Vans, Horses, and Harness, present owner retiring from business. Address Carrier, 107 Quarry-street, Ultimo.

BUSY BEE BIZ AGENCY, 21 Elizabeth-street, city.—Business, Partnership, and Finance Agents. Syndicates formed. Auction Sales arranged. 'Phone, 114 City. Leave tram at HUNTER-ST.

OPEN till 10 o'clock to-night—Joe Gardiner's two Boot Stores, George-st and Oxford-st.

HOTELS in every suburb and country town and city area, from £90 to £5000. We give reliable information and prove trade. Call further particulars.
R. CHAPMAN and SON, 108 Pitt-street.

BOOT Bargains available till 10 o'clock To-night at Joe Gardiner's Boot Stores, Oxford and Geo. sts.

A FIRST-CL. Fruit and Confectionery and Catering Business for Sale, cheap, in business thoroughfare, established 1890; must sell. A bargain. Apply F. LOCKWOOD, Good-street, Granville.

FOR SALE, City Cafe, 1s tar., central pos., splendid chance, no reas. offer ref. Apply 71 Hunter-st.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

SURFITES are specially catered for in the way of special surf and bathing shoes at Joe Gardiner's.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at
84B PITT-STREET.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

MICK RUSH, 49 CASTLEREAGH-STREET.—Many HOTELS for SALE, town, country, and sub. From long experience, no one can give better advice to purchasers. Call for particulars.

FOR SALE, cheap, Lease, License, and Goodwill Hotel, best position mining town. Apply
113 N.B., Honeysuckle Point P.O.,
Newcastle.

HOTEL, Redfern, large trade, good cr., £450 cash, long lease, bank refs. Ranger, Herald, King-st.

HOTEL, city, well fur., centre of heavy traffic, good shipping bus., day and night. Bondy, Herald B'ch.

NEEDHAM and CO., 31 Elizabeth-st.—Largest and best selection Boarding-houses and Businesses.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

JOE GARDINER'S Busy Boot Stores will be open till 10 o'c. to-night. Shop early, and avoid the crush.

FOR Sale, Blacksmith Business. Apply C. Chantler, Cundle.

DAIRY, 100 quarts, at 5d, profits £6 per week, land, must sell thr. illness. 802, Herald.

BOOT Bargains available till 10 o'clock To-night at Joe Gardiner's Boot Stores, Oxford and Geo. sts.

FOR Sale, one of best Cash Butchering Bus. in Newtown. W. H. Morriss, 14 Mary-st, N'town, op. P.O.

H'DRESSING and Tobacconist Bus. for Sale, cheap to a good tradesman. Urgent, 141 Hargrave-st.

LODG.-HOUSE, 7 rms., kit., all let, 17s over rent, £17. Bernes, Broughton, Co., 18 Oxf.-st, Padd.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

WANTED, genuine BUSINESS, any kind; will pay cash to £150. London, Herald Office.

WANTED, a Business, anything from £100 to £200, city or suburbs, no agents. Biz, Herald.

BOOT Bargains available till 10 o'clock To-night at Joe Gardiner's Boot Stores, Oxford and Geo. sts.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

MILKMAID MILK is the best Milk made.

BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

DYMOCK'S BOOK ARCADE,

OPEN TILL 10 O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT.
ALSO ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

BOOKS FOR ALL TASTES.	CARDS, CALENDARS.
PRESENTS FOR ALL AGES.	LEATHER AND FANCY GOODS.
PICTURE BOOKS.	ARTISTIC 1909 CALENDARS.
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.	FLAT AND BONED XMAS CARDS.
STORIES OF ADVENTURE.	POSTCARDS, ALL PRICES.
XMAS ANNUALS.	WRITING AND DRESSING CASES.
BOOKS FOR GIRLS.	PURSES AND POCKETBOOKS.
THE LATEST NOVELS.	INKSTANDS AND PHOTO FRAMES.
DAINTY AND SMALL EDITIONS.	AUTOGRAPH AND BIRTHDAY BOOKS.
DEVOTIONAL BOOKS.	POSTCARD AND STAMP ALBUMS.
BIBLES AND PRAYERBOOKS.	MANICURE SETS.
BOOKS OF TRAVEL AND HISTORY.	LADIES' COMPANIONS.

XMAS AUTOGRAPH STATIONERY.
NEW STOCK JUST OPENED. DAINTY DESIGNS.
INSPECTION INVITED. INSPECTION INVITED.

DYMOCK'S BOOK ARCADE,

428 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.

A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS.

OUR ANNUAL,

BEING A REPRINT ON SUPERIOR PAPER OF THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF "THE WORKER."
PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED.

This 64 pp. Magazine, made by Australian Writers, Australian Artists, and Australian Workmen, cost hundreds of pounds to produce. It is yours for Threepence. A Triumph of Cheap Production.

PRICE, THREEPENCE.

SECOND EDITION NOW IN THE HANDS OF NEWS AGENTS.

AMONGST THE WRITERS ARE:—Henry Lawson, Edward Dyson, Fred. Broomfield, E. J. Brady, E. S. Sorenson, E. Clinch, "Gilrooney," Jack Higgins, A. G. Stephens, Roderic Quinn, Robert Kaleski, M. Forrest, Phil Fairleigh, P. T. Freeman, R. A. Kent, W. B. Melville.

FIRST EDITION SOLD RIGHT OUT.

ANY ONE ITEM IN THIS ALL AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE IS WELL WORTH THE PURCHASE MONEY.

PRICE, THREEPENCE.

ALL NEWS AGENTS AND BOOK STALLS. WHOLESALE OF GORDON AND GOTCH.

BOOT and Shoes were never so cheap—that's what shoppers at Joe Gardiner's keep saying.

CASSELL'S New Books for Presents and Prizes, 1s to 42s, cannot be beaten. Your bookseller keeps these.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Chums, the popular Boys' Annual, new vol., 1200 pages, 8s.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—The Girls' Realm, cont. long stories by Ethel Turner, Mrs. Meade, 8s.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Little Folks, in picture boards, illustrat., 3s 6d; Cloth Gilt, 5s.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Bo-peep, picture boards, illus., 2s 6d; Tiny Tots, illus, 1s 4d.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—The Quiver, hundreds of illustrations, long compl. story, 7s 6d.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Nature Book, a delightful and beautiful work, illustrated, 14s.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Women of all Nations, profusely illustrated, half leather, 17s 6d.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Blue and Grey, illustrated, 3s 6d; Curiosity Land, illus., 2s 6d.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—Life's Contrasts, new book by Foster Fraser, illustrated, 3s 6d.

CASSELL'S Presentation Volumes.—All Booksellers. Catalogue posted free from Cassell's, 82 Pitt-st.

CASSELL'S New Novels.—Cloth, 3s 6d; Ghost Kings (Haggard), Virgin in Judgment (Philpotts), etc.

AT Joe Gardiner's George-st store—Nos. 797, 799, 799A, 801—special bargains in Xmas Footwear.

WITH THE
FLAGSHIP
in the
SOUTH.

NEPEAN TIMES, all district news, liberal advertising scale. Box 1542, G.P.O., Sydney; No. 1, Penrith.

BOOT and Shoes were never so cheap—that's what shoppers at Joe Gardiner's keep saying.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

JERDAN'S, "My Opticians," for Boys' Xmas Toys, Electric, Steam, Clockwork Models, from 2s 6d.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

FIFTY PER CENT.

OF YOUR BOOKKEEPER'S OR INVOICE CLERK'S TIME SAVED WITH THE "REMINGTON" BILLING SYSTEM.

Your Monthly Itemised Bill and Book Entries made out at ONE WRITING ONLY—NICELY TYPEWRITTEN. ONE POSTING a month to the Ledger. Bills got out on the first day of the month. NO MORE NIGHT-WORK.

If you want to economise in your Office Expenses call and see us.
STOTT AND HOARE, LTD., MOORE-STREET, SYDNEY.

PUBLIC APOLOGY TO MR. THOMAS MORGAN.—I, FREDERICK C. SMITH, Proprietor and Publisher of the "Woonona News" Newspaper, do hereby publicly APOLOGISE to Mr. THOMAS MORGAN, Secretary of the Illawarra Colliery Employees' Association, for the Libel published by me in the Woonona Newspaper of 9th December, 1908, under the heading, "Defeat of the Miners' Secretary." The article in question was published by us inadvertently and without malice, and we express our regret to Mr. Morgan that he should have been caused any pain by its publication. The statements complained of by Mr. Morgan are without foundation. He is a man of honest purpose and unblemished character, noted for his integrity and uprightness; he was always fully alive to the cause of the Association and the interests of the miners he represented, and he always carried out his duties with conspicuous ability and success. We personally regret his defeat for the post of Secretary. Having been communicated with by Messrs. P. J. PRATT, OWEN, and SON, Solicitors for Mr. Morgan, we at once agreed to publish this apology. THE "WOONONA NEWS" NEWSPAPER, F. C. SMITH, Proprietor.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

NOTICE.

The Offices of this Society will be CLOSED on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 25th and 26th instant, for the Christmas Holidays. Premiums, etc., falling due on either of these days will be accepted on MONDAY, the 28th instant, the risks being held covered in the meantime.

By order of the Board,
ROBERT B. CAMERON, Secretary.
Head Office, 87 Pitt-street, Sydney, December 22, 1908.

AUSTRALIAN GAS-LIGHT COMPANY.

NOTICE.

The Head and Branch Offices of this Company will be closed for the Christmas Holidays on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 25th and 26th instant, respectively.

R. J. LUKEY,
Secretary.
Company's Head Office,
163 Kent-street,
Sydney,
23rd December, 1908.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The following House and Land Agents in Summer Hill and Ashfield will CLOSE THEIR OFFICES from THURSDAY EVENING, the 24th instant, until MONDAY, the 4th JAN., 1909. Xmas and New Year's Holidays. Rents will be collected as usual.

STANTON and SON.
TURNER, TATE, and CO.
C. BRADLEY.
G. WEATHERILL.
J. A. SOMERVILLE.
HEIGHWAY and HIGGS.

MERCANTILE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
Head Office, 120 Pitt-street.

NOTICE.

The OFFICE of this COMPANY will be CLOSED on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 25th and 26th instant, for the Christmas Holidays.

KELSO KING, Manager.
Sydney, 24th December 1908.

ASTOUNDING Bargains in every description of NOVELTIES, at 89 Oxford-st, Waverley.

THE OFFICES IN THE UNDERMENTIONED ASSOCIATION will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, the 25th, and SATURDAY, 26th inst, being the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:—

FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

FREDERIC COX, Secretary.

THE OFFICES IN THE UNDERMENTIONED ASSOCIATION will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, the 25th, and SATURDAY, 26th inst, being the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:—

THE SYDNEY MARINE UNDERWRITERS' AND SALVAGE ASSOCIATION, Ltd.

W. H. JACKSON, Secretary.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at
84B PITT-STREET.

MATER MISERICORDIAE HOSPITAL,
WILLOUGHBY-ROAD.

NOTICE.
THE ART UNION
which was to have been held
on the
19th of December, 1908,
is
POSTPONED
to the
27th MARCH, 1909.

WHY pay exorbitant prices for Spectacles when you can have each eye tested separately, and have the very best lenses in solid nickel frames, 5s; Solid Gold, 12s 6d; Rolled Gold, from 2s 6d; Gold Filled, 10 years' guarantee to keep its colour, will stand the test if nitric acid, 7s 6d with case; Brazilian Pebbles, 2s; Double Vision, 5s 6d. H. Barnett, Scientific Optician, 349 Pitt-st, 3 drs. from the Water and Sewerage Board.

WATCHES CLEANED, 2s; BEST ENGLISH MAINSPRINGS, 2s. REPAIRS guaranteed one year. NOLAN, TIME, and CO., 702 George-street, Haymarket.

PUBLIC NOTICE. EMPLOYEES of the NATIONAL CARDBOARD BOX CO. are kindly requested to be at Factory MONDAY AFTERNOON.

WANTED, 500 Country Visitors to try our famous XMAS SUITS to Measure, 30s to 63s. L. MYERSON and SON, the Big Tailors, 752 George-street, Haymarket (only).

OERTEL'S CORDIALS have no equal for flavour, wholesomeness, moderate price. Tel., 392 Newtown.

JAMES H. ADGER, Skin Specialist and Hair Culturist, Right opp. Australia Hotel. Tel., 1119 City.

LONGSHAW for Keys, Locks, and Repairs. Safes opened. Tel., 2231. 279 Pitt-st, next Sch. of Arts.

FOR SALE.

(Continued from Page 12.)

PLUMS!!

Talk about "PLUMS"! Pick one from the following:—No. 7 Remingtons, £10, £11, £12, £13, and £16; No. 8 Remingtons (Brief), £10 to £15; No. 6 Remingtons, £10; No. 5 Remingtons, £6 10s to £8; No. 2 Remington, £5; "Oliver" Visible, £9; "Underwood" Visible, £15; "Monarch" Visible (Paper), £16; "Williams" Visible, £5; "Rem-Sho," £8; "New Century" (Brief), £10; "Barlock" Visible, £8; "Hammond," £10; "Jewett," £7; New "Blick," £9; "Smith Premier," No. 4 and Tab, £14; "Empire" Visible (Brief), £9; Armstrong, £3.

STOTT AND HOARE, LTD., MOORE-STREET, SYDNEY.

CLEARING Out Everything.—Bedstead, complete, 15s; Comb. Chests, 27s 6d; Wicker Suites, £2 19s 6d; Bookcase, 30s; Sideboard, 2 bev. mirrors, £4 10s; High-back Chairs, 6s 6d. A. Edgar's, 32 Oxford-st.

PAWNED by Englishman, Diamond MARQUISE RING, £6 10s, Massive 15-carat Chain, £6, recently. What offers for Tickets? Grand chance for Speculators. 745, Herald.

ONE THOUSAND Salvage TAILOR-MADE SUITS, at one-third usual prices, at
BERGMAN'S,
123 George-street North.

MASSIVE Brass Bal. Bedstead, 5ft, with wire and h'hair bed, £7 10s; Oak Hallstand, 45s; Sideboards, best bev. mirrors, from 45s; Aust. Chairs, 3s 9d; other Furn. almost given away. Big C., 459 Elizabeth-street.

CHEAP XMAS PRESENTS.—Glove and Hdch. Boxes; Cutlery Bskts., 2d. Elliott's, 493 George-st.

F Furnishing, Elliott's are sellers; Bedroom Prices dur. Sale. Cott. and Man. furn. thr'out. 493 Geo.-st.

CHEAP.—Ice Chests, Gas Stoves, Counters, Glass Wall and Counter Cases, Partitions. Elliott's, 493 Geo.-st.

GUNS, new, second-hand, by noted makers, cheap; reliable Repairs executed. Graham, 63 Q.V. Mkts.

PRETTY hand-painted Tea Service, also Dessert Service, exq. des., £2 each. Inkpen, Herald, King-st.

JOE GARDINER'S two Boot Stores Closed all day tomorrow and Sat. Open till 10 o'clock to-night.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

FOR SALE, Merry-go-round, Razzle, Swinging Boats, plant complete. P. Dale, Strachan-st, Kensington.

SINGER'S Sewing Mach. (factory), £5 10s; large Drop Table, £1 5s. 66 Australia-st, Newtown.

ENGLISH OAK CASK (new), about 200 galls.; must be sold. T. W. Taylor, 5 Moore-st.

CREAM SEPARATOR (75 gallons), equal to new; no reasonable offer refused. Taylor, 5 Moore-st.

FOR SALE, a new, fascinating GAME, fully patented throughout Commonwealth, price £25. 786, Herald.

PRIME Turkeys, Geese, Fowls, and Ducks. Apply G. Withey, 117 Glenmore-rd, Paddington. T., 83 Padd.

CECHESTS, 20, secondhand; Counters, Glass Cases, Fittings, etc. Mayne's, 87 Goulburn-st, nr. Hood.

SINGER'S Latest Drophead Sewing Machine; a real bargain. Bagge, 545 George-st, near Liverpool-st.

FOR Sale, Tyres Whitewashing Spray, nearly new. S. Lyons, 37 Elizabeth-st, city.

DINING-RM. TABLE, 8 x 3, 10s 6d; s.h. Stretchers, from 1s 6d. Phegan, 438 Oxford-st, Padd.

COUNTERS, Shelving, Coppers and Stands, Cornet, Force Pump, Scales, etc., ch. 104 King-st, Newt.

PAWNED, £3 5s, Diamond Bangle; Diamond Ring, ticket £1, 2 Scale-st, off Elswick-st, Leichhardt.

EDISON new Standard and 73 Records, sell for less than half cost. 46 Darling-st, Glebe.

JOE GARDINER'S two Boot Stores Closed all day tomorrow and Sat. Open till 10 o'clock to-night.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

BOXING DAY.—Two Big Auctions, Stanwell Park. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran, Pitt-st.

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AUCTION SALES.

£1 DOWN SECURES, AND 10/ MONTH PAYS FOR,

A CRONULLA SECTION.

RETURN TICKETS, TRAIN, 'BUS, AND REFRESHMENTS, 2/.

Intending Visitors to Cronulla on Boxing Day must call To-day in order to secure one of the Special Tickets to be obtained from us alone. These Tickets entitle the holders to the return trip by train and 'bus, together with refreshments on the ground. But a limited number have been issued, and the demand is so keen that we request intending purchasers to secure their 2/ Tickets as early as possible to prevent disappointment.

RETURN TICKETS, TRAIN, 'BUS, AND REFRESHMENTS, 2/.

AUCTION TRAMWAY ESTATE, CRONULLA,

BOXING DAY, AT 2 O'CLOCK.

The Auction Sale of the 107 Choice Level Building Allotments, comprising the Tramway Estate at Cronulla, is at 2 o'clock, on the Ground. The Lots front Kurranulla Beach-road, the new tram route, and four other newly-made roads on the Estate. The surf is but little more than a mile distant, a few minutes' tram ride. For cottages, week-end retreats, bathing, and fishing boxes, the Lots are just perfect. The Title is Torrens. Remember, our guarantee that "no high or inflated values have been placed on the Lots." Each will be sold if a fair tiding be offered.

Make also a note of the hitherto unknown terms for Quarter-acres at Cronulla.

£1 DOWN, 10/ MONTH.

A band will play all day on the Tramway Estate, Free Refreshments will be provided, and trains leave Sydney at 8.32, 8.55, 9.10, 9.12, 9.33, 9.36, 9.53, 9.58, 10.10, 10.12, 10.30, 11, 11.10, 11.30, 12, and 12.30.

Any one of these trains will land passengers in time for our Auction, but the last of our Ten Special 'Buses will leave Sutherland Station at 11.30 a.m. Visitors getting a later train must needs take one of the ordinary coaches.

THE TICKETS ARE 2s.

And, together with Free Illustrated Booklets and Plans of Tramway Estate, may be obtained from the Auctioneers.

ARTHUR RICKARD AND CO., LTD.,
84B PITT-STREET,
AUCTIONEERS AND REALTY SPECIALISTS.

HAZELBROOK LAND SALE.

BOXING DAY.

For the convenience of Buyers it has been SPECIALLY ARRANGED that TRAINS leaving Sydney for this Sale on BOXING DAY at 8.10, 8.28, and 9.20 a.m. stop at HAZELBROOK.

A RETURN TICKET FOR 2/6 can be got TO-DAY ONLY, from the Auctioneers,

PIERCY ETHELL and CO., 3 Moore-street.

WOY WOY. BOXING DAY. WOY WOY.

POSITIVE CLEARANCE SALE OF "THE WARNER ESTATE" will be held at Mrs. MARSHALL'S WOY WOY HOTEL, at 11 a.m.
CHOICE RESIDENTIAL SITES, RIGHT ON THE BEST FISHING GROUNDS, AND HANDY TO WOY WOY RAILWAY STATION, ALONG BLACKWALL POINT-ROAD.
WELL ELEVATED LAND. GOOD SOIL. WELL GRASSED. LOVELY VIEWS.
TITLE TORRENS.
EASY TERMS: ONLY £1 PER LOT DEPOSIT, BALANCE EXTENDING 5 YEARS AT 5 PER CENT.
HUGH DUFF AND CO., AUCTIONEERS, 283 GEORGE-STREET.

BETWEEN THREE WATERS—

Between the ocean, Port Hacking, and Gunnamatta Bay, and the three sandy surfing beaches, close to the large public reserves, close to the new tram route, and in the nicest part of Cronulla, is the
HEART O' CRONULLA ESTATE.
20 high, level Allotments, of good garden soil—not sand. For absolute sale by auction there on New Year's Afternoon. Easy Terms. Fair Building Restriction. Title is Torrens, and Mr. C. E. BYRNES, of Parramatta, is Solicitor to Vendor.
Send for a Plan to MOBBS and CO., Auctioneers, Parramatta; or to A. L. HINTON, 94 Pitt-street.

MOSMAN HEIGHTS ESTATE,

MOSMAN.

THE GREAT LAND SALE OF THE SEASON.

COUNTRY AREAS IN CITY SUBURBS.

LOTS RANGE UP TO 280 FEET DEEP.
THE SOIL IS RICH AND OF A DARK LOAMY NATURE.
ALL LOTS ARE LEVEL AND WELL ELEVATED, WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS OF HARBOUR.
ADJACENT TO RECREATION GROUNDS AND GOVERNMENT RESERVE, AND NEAR SPIT BATHS.
ONLY ONE MINUTE FROM TRAM.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH, LTD.,
in conjunction with RICHARDSON and CO., 107 Pitt-street.

INGLIS'S BAZAAR, THIS DAY.

WILLIAM INGLIS and SON will sell by auction, at their Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 10.30 sharp,
Vans, Springcarts, Horses, and Harness; Draught Horses, Tipcarts, Horses, and Harness; and at 11 a.m., Horses and Vehicles of every description, specially advertised. Tel., 1331.

HANSOM CAB TURNOUT.

WILLIAM INGLIS and SON have received instructions from Mr. W. D. M'Adam to sell by auction, at their Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 12 o'clock noon,
Grey Gelding, Open Cab, and Set of Harness, a first-class lot.

HIGH-CLASS HARNESS HORSE, FROM BERRY.

WILLIAM INGLIS and SON have received instructions from Mr. W. J. Ulrich, Berry, to sell by auction, at their Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 12 o'clock,
Bay Gelding, thoroughly broken to harness, quiet, and reliable, good mover, suitable for sociable, highly recommended.

MILCH COWS. MILCH COWS.

INGLIS AND SON'S RAILWAY STOCK SALEYARDS, 827 GEORGE-STREET.

THIS DAY, THURSDAY, AT 11 A.M.

WILLIAM INGLIS and SON will sell as above, on account of Messrs. D. Buffier, M'Intosh Bros., H. Dunn, and others,
99 First-class Milch Cows, in full milk, with young Calves at foot, from the best dairies in the Southern and Hunter districts.

C. J. TURNER sells at his Rooms, at noon, To-day, Xmas Poultry, Valentine-st.

THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING, at 11,

At the HAYMARKET AUCTION ROOMS, 772 Geo.-st.,

5 VAN LOADS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
Drawing, Dining, Hall, and Bedroom Appointments.
Kitchen and Laundry Utensils.
Splendid Lot 6 feet Linoleum (Remnants).
12 Good Carpets, Large 1 Rugs, and Mats.
Crockery, Glass, China, Electroplate, Cutlery.
25 First-class Bedsteads, all sizes, with Wires and Bedding.
Singer Lat. Improved S. Machine, all parts comp. Jewel Gas Stove, 3 good Ice Chests, 2 Freezers, Kitchen Dressers, Tables, Safes, Chairs, 2-Roller Mangle, and Hosts Sundries.
E. HERDEN BRODRIBB will Sell, without Reserve.

TO THE FURNITURE TRADE AND PRIVATE BUYERS.

THIS DAY, DECEMBER 24th, AT 11 A.M.

AT WYLDE-STREET, POTTS POINT.

ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE AUCTION SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS.

A. G. JENKINS will sell, as above, THIS MORNING, WITHOUT RESERVE.

AUCTION SALE, THIS DAY, 3 p.m.—J. JOHNSON'S Salerooms, 14 Lackey-street, Summer Hill. Clearing Sale before Christmas. A very choice lot Fancy Glass and Ornaments, and Crockeryware, furniture, etc. Must be sold. WITHOUT RESERVE. Terms CASH. Outdoor Sales conducted.

VISITORS to Sydney.—Your sight tested free of charge, advice gratis. Jordan's, 332 George-st.

FURNITURE, ETC.

FURNITURE, ON TIME-PAYMENT AT CASH PRICES.
£5 worth, 5s deposit, 2s 6d weekly.
£10 worth, 10s deposit, 3s 6d weekly.
£15 worth, 20s deposit, 5s weekly.
£20 worth, 30s deposit, 6s weekly.
HOUSES FURNISHED TO £100 ON EASY TERMS.
J. DEVENISH,
813 PITT-STREET, between Bathurst and Park streets.
No Extra Charge for Terms.
Wednesdays Close 1. Saturdays Open till 10.

FURNITURE FROM A SINGLE ARTICLE TO WHAT YOU MAY REQUIRE.
£5 worth, terms 2/6 weekly. Special Terms may be
£8 worth, terms 3/ weekly. arranged to suit
£10 worth, terms 3/6 weekly. Purchaser.
£15 worth, terms 5/ weekly. Reform Prices.
£20 worth, terms 6/ weekly. CALL AND INSPECT
SMALL DEPOSITS TAKEN. FOR YOURSELVES.
W. H. KEAM,
General Merchant,
Letters punctually attended to. 99 George-st W.

SALE, Handsome Hearthrugs, 60 x 30, only 3s ea.; Baskets, 2d ea., etc. Elliott's, 493 George-st.

CUTLER Roll-top Desks, Pedestal Tables, Posting Desks, Tip Chairs, etc. Elliott's, 493 George-st.

JUST call into Elliott's if Furnishing to realise what bargains we are offering. 493 George-st.

CHEAP CHAIRS.—10,000 Austrian for Sale, Hire; Inval., Conv., Am. Diners. Elliott's, 493 Geo.-st.

GENUINE Clearance Sale.—Bedroom, Dining-room, Drawing-room Suites, red. Elliott's, 493 Geo.-st.

FURNITURE Bargains, owners leaving district, must sell. Call and inspect. Rockdale Auction Rooms.

ADVERTISER will Buy some Secondhand Furniture for cash; no dealers. J.T., P.O., Oxford-st, city.

GENT. and fam., Return., will Buy good House Furniture, cash; no d. Rosmont, Woodstock-st, Wav.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Pla. s, Halloran.

SHOP early and avoid the crush at Joe Gardiner's boot stores, Oxford-st and George-st.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day, Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st

WOY WOY. WOY WOY. WOY WOY.
WOY WOY. WOY WOY. WOY WOY.

ON BOXING DAY

AND A DAY FOR BARGAINS AT WOY WOY.

HUGH DUFF and CO. will submit the following Properties, on BOXING DAY, at 11 a.m., at Mrs. MARSHALL'S HOTEL, Woy Woy.
MOUNT PLEASANT ESTATE.—Lots 37 and 34, close to jetty, Water Frontage, sandy beach.
WARNER ESTATE.—Positive Clearance Sale, Choice RESIDENTIAL SITES, handy to Railway Station, and right on Fishing Ground. Title Torrens. Terms, £1 per lot deposit, and the Balance 10 half-yearly instalments at 5 per cent.
WOY WOY VILLAGE.—Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, Sec. B, and Lot 12, Sec. D, close to Bay View Hotel, and fronting Patonga-street, each 66 x 198.
AND ALSO IN THE AFTERNOON ON THE SAME DAY.
At 3 p.m. on the Ground.
BAY VIEW ESTATE, right opposite the Railway Station, CHARMING WATER FRONTAGE PROPERTY (for many years known as Canon Taylor's), W.B. Cottage, 4 rooms, also Det. Building, with 5 rooms on land over 1 acre, well grassed, and gentle slope to the water. Absolute Water Frontage, substantial jetty, prettiest spot in Woy Woy.
AND AT 3.30 P.M.
Lot 19 of WOY WOY ESTATE, on which is erected W.B. Cottage, 4 large rooms (fully furnished), also two-storied building, with large room on jetty, and known as Lawrence's Cottage.
HUGH DUFF and CO., Auctioneers,
283 George-street.

JOE GARDINER is the Great Footwear Price-Cutter. Support the man who has brought down the prices.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

CITY OF SYDNEY—CAMPERDOWN WARD.

In accordance with the provisions of the Sydney Corporation Amendment Act, 1908, I hereby give PUBLIC NOTICE that the COUNCIL of the MUNICIPALITY of CAMPERDOWN was DISSOLVED as from the 22nd inst., and the said Municipality is included within the City, and is subject to all Acts and Bylaws affecting the City, and shall henceforth be known as CAMPERDOWN WARD. And I give further Notice that an ELECTION OF TWO ALDERMEN for CAMPERDOWN WARD will be held on FRIDAY, the eighth day of January, 1909, such Alderman to hold office until the next Election of Aldermen for the City.

THOMAS HUGHES,
Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Town Hall, Sydney,
22nd December, 1908.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

CAMPERDOWN WARD—CITY OF SYDNEY.

I, THOMAS HUGGINS NESBITT, Town Clerk of the City of Sydney, the Returning Officer for the City of Sydney, as provided by the Sydney Corporation Act, 1902, do hereby give PUBLIC NOTICE that an ELECTION OF TWO ALDERMEN for CAMPERDOWN WARD, in the said City of Sydney, will be held on FRIDAY, the eighth day of January, 1909, and that NOMINATIONS must be made in writing to me at the Town Hall, George-street, Sydney, on and after the twenty-ninth day of December, 1908, and until noon of the fourth day of January, 1909.

It is further notified that each Nomination Paper for the said Ward must be signed by not less than TWO citizens qualified to vote in that Ward, and that the consent of the person nominated, signified by such person, must accompany the same.

The residence of all such parties must also be stated on the nomination papers.

Candidates are particularly required to note that under the provisions of Section 22 of the Sydney Corporation Act, 1902, it is enacted as follows:—

1. No candidate at any election shall expend, either by himself or his agent, more than fifty pounds in connection with such election, and the details of such expenditure, verified by statutory declaration, shall be furnished to the Town Clerk within seven days after the holding of an election.
2. Any candidate who spends more than the said fifty pounds in connection with any such election, or fails to furnish the details of his expenditure within the time limited in the last preceding section, shall be liable to a penalty of twenty pounds, to be recovered in a summary manner in any court of competent jurisdiction, and if elected such election shall be void.

THOMAS H. NESBITT,
Town Clerk,
Returning Officer.

Town Clerk's Office,
Town Hall, Sydney,
23rd December, 1908.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at 84B PITT-STREET.

FLORISTS.

XMAS TREES, 6ft high, from 2s 6d; Xmas Bush, Xmas Bells, Palms, etc. Atkins, Hunter-st.

STANWELL PARK.—Auctions, Boxing Day, 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m. Trains Sydney from 7 a.m. Plans, Halloran.

CHILDREN'S Shoes are made a speciality of at Joe Gardiner's big boot stores, Oxford and George sts.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st

THE WEEK IN LONDON.

AN AUSTRALIAN'S NOTES.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The Swedish Royal Visit.

LONDON, Nov. 20.

The King and Queen of Sweden are at present in this country as the guests of their Majesties of England, and Windsor Castle has witnessed this week some of those superbly elaborate functions of Royal entertainment for which the English Court is famous. Merely to read of the splendour of the State banquet on Monday night, with its gorgeous accessories and its distinguished company—including, besides sixteen Royal personages, the suites of the English and Swedish Royal households, many uniformed and be-ribboned Ambassadors and Ministers of foreign Courts, members of the Government, and great officers of State—suggests to anyone who has seen St. George's Hall a spectacle of regal magnificence. St. George's Hall, like the rest of the State apartments of Windsor Castle, is freely open to the public when the King is not in residence. It is a noble chamber. Its great length is framed in by a gracefully arched oaken roof, and all down its length, on either side, hang from the walls the traditional banners of the Knights of the Garter, under each of which is emblazoned its owner's armorial bearings. On the occasion of a State banquet electric flambeaux high upon the walls, and hundreds of candles set in lines of golden candelabra down the one long table, throw a blaze of light upon what must be a scene of superb splendour. Thus, on Monday night, we read of the banqueting hall as providing a beautiful spectacle, wherein great buffets at both ends of the chamber were massed high with gold vases and salvers and plate, and a profusion of delicate orchids and pale pink roses hung about the table, mingling their native beauty with the glittering uniforms, and the decorations, and the jewels of the guests, while all round the hall stood in waiting the picturesque Yeomen of the Guard. On Wednesday the King and Queen of Sweden made a State entry into the city of London, as the guests of the Lord Mayor. This, as always, was a fine spectacle, and the eight miles of approaching and returning route were traversed amid the cheers of hundreds of thousands of Londoners. The streets of the route had been brilliantly decorated, and the customary picturesque procession of the Sovereign's escort of Guards and the various Royal carriages made its way through long avenues of flags, festooned from side to side of the streets. Guildhall, where their Majesties received official welcome to the city, and were entertained at luncheon, made, as usual, an altogether appropriate setting for the dignified ceremonial necessary to the occasion. King Edward's entertainment of his guests during their stay includes several theatrical performances.

The Murmur of India.

It is only a murmur, at present, perhaps, but it seems to gather volume day by day. The always present opposition, among certain classes, to the Government of Great Britain has assumed, latterly, a bolder form than that we have known so long. These aspirants for the overthrow of British rule have ceased to whisper out of sight, and have come into the open more than once of late with disastrous result. The frequent outrages of the past few months witness to the growing confidence of the malcontents. Race-hatred flaunts itself undisguisedly in the streets. Englishmen go about armed, and Englishwomen do not dare to travel unprotected. The courtesy submission which the English have known so long in India, in the obeisance made to them as rulers by the people of a subjugated race, no longer avails to disguise the facts beneath, and the pretence of humility is increasingly cast aside. It is said that the primary causes of the growing restlessness of the India race are two, chiefly—the easy-going provision of liberal education made by Great Britain for the people, and the continued official leniency towards the seditious press. The system of education in India appears to be not merely that provision of elementary instruction which is the duty of every civilised Government, but a highly advanced and altogether too benevolent arrangement by which, almost free of charge, Indians are provided with a generous educational equipment, which, being grafted upon the ever-present root of religious beliefs and racial hatred, results in the loosing upon India of an army of glibly plausible agitators. As to the press, there has long been a widely-circulated section of it devoted to the misrepresentation of England, to the vilifying of official motives, and sometimes to open incitement to murder, so that, as once before, it again becomes a question whether a free press and foreign rule are compatible, especially when the press so abuses its freedom as literally to live on its capacity for slander and misrepresentation. Radical reforms in the details of Government machinery appear to be imminent in India, and with them doubtless will be manifested in greater degree that power to rule the absence of concrete evidence of which is held by some Indian authorities to be largely responsible for the spread of sedition now so widely deplored.

The English Autumn.

Mid-November is past, and we have had no fog. We are grateful, and in some moods an illusory glamour of hopefulness possesses us. Not for long though, for we know November to be unfairly, albeit traditionally, debited in the matter of fog. There are really more fogs in December, as a rule. November is not without its uses, though. It is a borderland of the year. The harshness of winter may be upon us at any moment now. There is little sign of it. The mysterious flux of the seasons doubtless palpitates invisibly about us, but the change is, so far, gentle, and, but for the trees, imperceptible. The days are not cold, but the trees are thinner, and less and less immune from the windy onsets they laughed at a month or two ago. The lightest breath of air now fells a leaf, and a gust of wind brings scores of them to the ground, to lie in golden heaps. This autumn glory of the north is a wonderful revelation of Nature as a colourist. I know a walk along a country road near London where, on any autumn afternoon, one is vouchsafed an unforgettable vision. Not the tender delicacy of the tiny leaf of spring, nor the freshness of its field flowers, nor even the magnificence of the pageant of summer, avails to dim the recollection of this ripe glory. There are some hills, with woods and bracken upon their summits, and an avenue of trees lower down, and below them, again, a white, winding country road, bordered by hedgerows. Two fields intervene, and then comes the road on which I walk, and, across on the other side, is another sloping field, with a little village nestling at its base. The thatched houses are fringed by trees, and the old village church seems, at a distance, to fling its hoary clock-tower right from the heart of the woodland. In the autumn days, on the side of the road where the hills are, the topmost trees are a rich, coppery brown, and the bracken is a tumbled mass of yellows, and the long avenue of lower trees stretches, half a mile of flaming gold. Between and beyond them is the white road, and that gleam of green in the grass that never forsakes an English field. The hedgerows are dark brown, and the village houses on the other side are golden brown, and there are walls upon which the Virginia creeper climbs blood-red. The sky is silver grey. There is no wind—these autumn afternoons are often still. The birds are gone, or silent. There is little to be had of the vision of far distances, for the evening mists are near at hand. But in their own way this closed-in stillness, and these masses of colour, the gold, and grey, and red, and brown, and the green of the grass, and the white of the road, and, over all, the misty silver sky, are perfectly beautiful. Even London is not entirely denuded of beauty in autumn. The squares and parks, which are such a leafy glory in summer, are, it is true, lying cold and bare for the most part, and the pale sunshine that scarcely reaches the streets is something of a travesty. But if the trees are almost leafless, at least their infinite variety of design may be seen, and on hundreds of London streets, just now, their myriad slender branches, never visible in summer, are revealed in all the turnings, and curvings, and twistings, in which, naked, they frame themselves into graceful lattice-work, or fill the eye with shapes of fantastic and by no means unpicturesque contour. And if there is little sunshine, London is at any rate filled with the dim grey mystery which, being thankful for small mercies, perhaps, one learns at last to appreciate. Certain is it that the straggling streets, and the tortuous alley-ways shut in by the great, weather-worn, solid buildings, and filled with the mists of early afternoon, have a low-toned, silver-grey beauty of their own. An Australian must needs cry aloud, occasionally, for a burst of his own glorious sunshine. But he need not, necessarily, rail at autumnal London. If there is no suggestion of the radiant beauty of his own country, still these dim half-lights seen through grey old streets, and the pale silvery tone of this low sky above him, make their own peculiar appeal.

A SCOW WRECKED.

THREE LIVES LOST.

THE STORY OF THE SOLE SURVIVOR.

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), Dec. 18.

The risky nature of a sea life is accentuated when such life is spent on a scow. This is again emphasised in the wreck of the Kia-Ora, a scow owned by Messrs. MacLaw Bros., timber merchants, of Auckland.

The Kia-Ora was bound from Ngunguru to Auckland, and was laden with kauri logs for the firm. She was captained by a well-known Auckland master mariner, Captain Edward Piercy. There were three others on board the vessel—the captain's son, James Piercy, a man of about 30 years of age, the cook, and a seaman.

Those drowned were:—
Edward Piercy, the captain.
James Piercy, his son.
Thomas Young, the cook.

The only one who escaped was the seaman, Thomas Gossop, who reached safety after a desperate struggle for life in the face of appalling difficulties.

THE VESSEL'S CREW.

The captain was a half-caste Maori, and was 54 years of age. He had been in the employ of Messrs. MacLaw Bros. for 18 years, and had always been regarded as a good seaman, one of the best on the coast. James Piercy was aged 30, and was an only son. He was married, but had no children. Thomas Young, the cook, was also an Aucklander, a son of Mr. Archibald Young, a well-known shipwright of this city. Gossop, the man saved, is a half-caste Maori, whose parents reside in Auckland.

The crew were making what might be regarded as their first trip. Captain Piercy was in charge of the vessel some time ago. For four years, and until lately, he has been on the Wairoa, and was making his initial trip on the coast.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

The "Herald" correspondent at Leigh telegraphs that at about midnight on Monday, during the heavy gale that raged on the coast, the Kia-Ora went ashore on a jutting reef on the outer side of Kawau Island. The sole survivor stated that she struck at about 12.15 o'clock in an intense darkness, and with a heavy sea running. At the time it was impossible to see the bow of the vessel, and the captain, thinking himself well clear of Kawau Island, and wishing to keep clear of the Canoe Rock, altered his course two points to starboard. Almost immediately after the scow struck a submerged rock, and was at once swept by a huge sea, which smashed her against the rocks, and carried her spars overboard. The cook was swept away by the same wave, and was never seen again.

The vessel started to break up, and the captain and his son, with the survivor, found themselves clinging to a rock which was being swept by occasional seas and a ceaseless spray. The tide was falling, and so later on they were less in danger of being washed off, but the cold wind and spray kept them in a state of helplessness and misery.

A SWIM FOR LIFE.

At length, when daylight broke, the survivor said he would not stay there to be drowned by the incoming tide. Then he struck out for the shore, and after 20 minutes' swimming landed at the foot of the steep cliff fairly exhausted. After clambering up the cliff a little way he looked back, but could see nothing of the other two, either in the water or on the rocks, and it can only be surmised that they followed his example, and tried to swim ashore, or were washed from their hold by a big wave. They were not seen again. The survivor climbed painfully up the cliff on what little precarious holding he could find, and eventually reached a cottage, where he was received and welcomed, and the news sent into Kawau.

The survivor is naturally much exhausted, but was reported well at the time the steamer Kawau left Kawau Island for Omaha. The vessel is broken into several pieces, one part of the hull being upside down, while the forepart is aslant inside the rock she struck. The deckhouse is ashore further along.

FIRES.

BIG BLAZE AVERTED.

At about 1 a.m. yesterday the M.F.B. were called to a fire which had broken out in No. 128 Castlereagh-street.

Headquarters and Circular Quay, George-street West, Darlinghurst, and Cumberland-street stations attended, and with three hydrants the fire was put out without much difficulty, though at first it looked a big job.

The flames had got good hold by the time the brigades arrived, and a thick stream of smoke was rising above the roof. The building contains a ground floor, occupied by Messrs. S. H. Harris and Co., auctioneers, whose premises and their contents were damaged by water, and three floors above. The first, in which the fire apparently broke out, is occupied by the National Cardboard Box Factory, and the second by some tailoring firm—possibly J. B. Pearman, who occupies the top floor. Both first and second floors and their contents were damaged by fire, and most of the damage occurred near the staircase.

A number of people collected to watch the flames and engines, and several constables from No. 1 Police Station were present under Sergeant Starratt, to preserve order.

The third floor was occupied by Lewis and Sonnenfild, trading as Sonnenfild and Co., clothing manufacturers. The contents of the floor were damaged by fire and water, and portion of the roof was burned off.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by a light being thrown down.

The building is covered by insurance in the Australian Alliance Company, and the stock of the different firms is also insured in separate companies.

SMALL OUTBREAKS.

The M.F.B. were called out last evening to several small outbreaks. One was in a four-roomed cottage in M'Evoy-street, Waterloo, owned and occupied by Mr. Joseph Lynch. The flames, which were caused through the boiling over of some fat, were put out by the inmates and the M.F.B. with buckets of water and a chemical extinguisher. The kitchen at the rear of the cottage was slightly damaged by fire and water, and a back bedroom with heat and smoke.

There was another call to the Prince of Wales Hotel, Waverley-road, occupied by Mr. Howard Hunting. Here a gas bracket was responsible for the damage by fire and water of some clothes and part of the contents of a front bedroom on the first floor. The inmates, however, put the flames out with buckets of water.

Again, in the Rawson Hall, Kent-street, city, occupied by the Central Methodist Mission, some toys and decorations on a Christmas tree caught fire at a gas bracket. There was a good deal of excitement, but Constable Duffell, with the assistance of Mr. Gilbert, with buckets of water soon extinguished the flames, the tree and toys and part of the furniture being damaged by fire and water.

ALLEGED ASSAULTS UPON WIVES.

At the Redfern Police Court, before Mr. Kirse, D.S.M., John Ridgeway, 53, labourer, was charged with having assaulted his wife, Ellen Ridgeway. Mrs. Ridgeway stated that she had a Judge's protection order against her husband. On the day in question she was coming home from work. Accused pushed her with much force against a brick wall, and struck her with his fist, causing the eye to become discoloured. He then ran away. She already had had him bound over to keep the peace, but in this instance she did not want him sent to gaol if he would consent to be again bound over. Accused was then bound over for six months, and was ordered to pay his wife's costs, £1 7s, in default imprisonment for one month.

At the Glebe Police Court, before Mr. Barnett, S.M., Michael Killorn, 31, was charged with having assaulted Jessie Killorn. Mr. Moss appeared for the defence, and pleaded not guilty.

Jessie Killorn stated that she was the wife of the accused. They lived apart. On the 5th inst. she met him at the corner of George and Abercrombie streets. He had her baby by the hand, walking along the street. Witness went up to the baby and said, "Kiss mumma, love." The accused pulled the child away, and used bad language to witness. Witness picked up the baby to kiss her, and he told the child not to kiss witness, and used a violent expression. He tried to grab the child, and in the struggle the little one's dress was torn. Witness said, "When she kisses me I'll put her down." He was dragging her out of witness's arms. He took the child away, and witness followed him up the street to the tram. He was under the influence of liquor. At the tram witness said to the child, "Kiss mumma, love." The accused then gave witness a violent blow on the left side of the cheek, and then kicked her in the stomach. She became dazed, and fell. She remembered nothing more until she found herself sitting on the kerbstone. She had left her husband on account of his cruelty. The child was 3½ years old. At present she had the child at her place.

Mrs. Emma Jane Ramsa stated that she witnessed the assault. The man and woman were strangers to her. The woman could not speak for five minutes. Two men carried her into witness' shop.

For the defence, the accused, who is a carter, said his wife left him in the first instance on account of another man. When she went away she would not take the child, and he had to look after it. On this afternoon he was taking the child to buy some clothes. His wife came along and picked the child up, but the little one refused to kiss her mother, and wanted to come to witness. Witness let the mother have the child for a time, but the child persisted in coming back to witness, and when he took her up his wife punched him in the face and followed him, making a fool of him all the way. She grabbed him by the coat to prevent his getting into the tram. She tore the child's dress, but he never hit her as stated. He had already been fined £1 for assaulting his wife.

Mr. Moss, who appeared for the accused, said he had two important witnesses, but they had failed to attend, and he asked for an adjournment to force their attendance. The request was granted, and the further hearing was adjourned.

SUMMER COMPLAINT.

The prevailing epidemic of Diarrhoea and Dysentery gives another opportunity to demonstrate the merits of

CHAMBERLAIN'S

COLIC, CHOLERA AND DIARRHOEA REMEDY.

This is unquestionably the most successful medicine in the world for bowel complaints. It has relieved more pain and suffering, and saved more lives than any other medicine in use. It is equally valuable for children and adults, and when reduced with water and sweetened, is pleasant to take. It never fails.

BOWEL COMPLAINT.

During the summer months children are subject to disorders of the bowels, and should receive the most careful attention. As soon as any looseness of the bowels is noticed, Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy should be given. When children are teething they have more or less diarrhoea, which can be controlled by giving Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

COLIC

is a severe and moving pain in the abdomen, which causes a rolling and twisting of the intestines. Children are most subject to it. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy is a great favorite for this disease, and it is pleasant and safe to take, prompt in its actions, and certain in its results. When reduced with water and sweetened, children like it.

DIARRHOEA.

Diarrhoea, in its first stages, can be cured by a few doses of that pleasant, reliable, and effectual medicine, Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. In many instances one dose is sufficient, but as a rule three or four doses are necessary. It is a good thing to keep in the house. Get a bottle to-day; it may save a life.

DYSENTERY

Or inflammation of the bowel or large intestine, is of more frequent occurrence during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is taken according to the printed directions with each bottle. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is invaluable to all medicine chests. Get a bottle to-day; it may save a life.

A FAVORITE WITH THE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

Mr. WILLIAM E. GOODE, 107 Victoria-st., Christchurch, N.Z., says:—

"I want to tell you of my experience with one bottle of 'Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy.' My sister had a very bad attack of diarrhoea, and had tried several mixtures, but still seemed to be getting worse. I obtained a bottle of 'Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy' for her, and after she had taken a few doses she was completely cured. A few days later a friend of mine, who was also suffering from diarrhoea, came into my place looking very pale and thin—in fact I hardly knew him. He said he had tried some medicine, but it had not done him any good. I gave him what remained in the bottle my sister had been using, and in a few hours he brought it back, still containing some of the medicine, and said he was cured. About a week after that I went to see one of my customers whose wife was sick in bed with diarrhoea, and had had the doctor calling twice a day for several days. The man was very excited and worried. I told him that if he would come over to my house I would give him a medicine that would cure his wife. At first he did not like to go against the doctor's orders, but I soon persuaded him. I gave him what remained in the bottle that my sister and friend had been using, and he started giving it to his wife on his return home. She was so much better that night that the doctor did not need to call again. This sounds exaggerated, but every word of it is the truth. I know of several people who have taken 'Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy,' and always with the best of results. I think it is absolutely the finest medicine obtainable for colic or diarrhoea."

1s 6d. SOLD EVERYWHERE. 3s.

COUNTRY NEWS.

BANGALOW, Tuesday.

Mr. W. Fletcher's racehorse Brookland while being exercised yesterday shied on a bridge and fell. He broke one of his legs, and had to be destroyed.

This morning a start was made with the new goods shed and railway station. A number of men are engaged filling in and putting down Monier pipes on the spot. The old station is to be removed on the new site; but a new shed will be erected and a raised platform.

BOWRAVILLE, Wednesday.

An important meeting of the Taylor's Arm and Bowraville railway leagues decided to mark a track for the practicable deviation of the North Coast railway from Algomera to Bellingen, so as to bring the line further inland. It was asserted that the proposed deviation will slightly decrease the distance, and pass through magnificent country the whole way.

CASINO, Wednesday.

A public meeting was held to arrange for a committee to carry out a public demonstration of turning the first sod of the Kyogle railway. The Kyogle residents are joining the movement. It is expected that 5000 people will be present on the occasion.

COOMA, Wednesday.

At the Adaminaby Police Court on Monday, before Messrs. Willcox and Barnett, Js.P., James Sorrell was committed for trial at the Cooma Quarter Sessions on March 3, on a charge of stealing a brown filly, the property of Mrs. Mary Locker, of Happy Valley estate.

Residents and tourists are gratified with the news that the sum of £200 has been placed upon the additional estimates towards the cost of erecting a bridge over Umeralla River, on the Goulburn-Cooma road.

CORAKI, Wednesday.

A complimentary banquet was last night tendered to Mr. S. J. Fernandez on the eve of his departure for Murwillumbah.

GILGANDRA, Wednesday.

Mr. Thomas Diggs, of Mount Granby, Mundooran, has died at the age of 85 years. He was a resident of the Castlereagh for over 50 years, and leaves numerous descendants.

GUYRA, Wednesday.

Mr. A. A. M'Kenzie, of Ollera, caught a splendid rainbow trout in George's Creek, Ollera, weighing 7½lb. Quite a large number of large trout have been seen in the creek; but they are difficult to take with the fly. Trout fry was put in the creek, at Tenterden, by Mr. A. W. Everett, about 25 years ago. The want of a properly-organised society is felt in this district, as there is no means of protecting the creeks from those who fish without the rod.

TAMWORTH, Wednesday.

At the police court two young men, Leslie Maloney and Leslie M'Cabe, were committed for trial on a charge of assaulting an old man named Joseph Nay, and robbing him of a watch valued at 15s.

TUMUT, Wednesday.

Two very old residents died yesterday—Mrs. Hoad, aged 89 years, one of the oldest residents; and Mr. John E. Bridle, of Bowler's Flat, aged 80. The latter was thrown from a waggonette on Monday last, sustaining serious injuries to the head. His horses bolted near his own home. Both funerals took place to-day.

YAMBULLA, Wednesday.

A telegram is to hand to the effect that £450 has been granted for the road Towamba to Yambulla, via Gordons. This will be a great boon to Yambulla, as it will shorten the road to Towamba by about three miles, and will be a much easier grade.

A MUNIFICENT GIFT.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

WEST MAITLAND, Wednesday.

Mr. John G. Rigney, a prominent member of the Roman Catholic Church, has given the sum of £10,000 to further the cause of Roman Catholic denominational education in the diocese of Maitland. The principal will remain a permanent endowment fund at interest, which will be devoted to the payment of the salary of a competent inspector and towards the general expenses and maintenance of schools.

In response to the wishes of Mr. Rigney, the Bishop of Maitland engaged a lady in Ireland with the highest credentials to supervise the work of the schools—Miss Anderson, M.A., of the Royal University of Ireland, and the holder of a first-class diploma of Cambridge University, who recently arrived to take up the duties. It is stated the reason for the appointment of a lady supervisor is chiefly due to the fact that all the schools in the diocese are taught by Dominican nuns and Sisters of Mercy, the only two exceptions being the boys' school in Maitland and Newcastle, which are under the Marist Brothers.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

BOOLAROO v HORNSBY DISTRICT.

The following is the result of a match between the above clubs, held on Saturday at Boolaroo, distance 500yds, 15 shots at each range, and was won by Boolaroo.

Boolaroo.—J. Eddeck, 60; A. Woollcott, 69; J. McLenan, 68; A. Telfer, 68; F. Evans, 67; J. Price, 67; W. Ritchie, 67; W. Corbett, 63; F. Payne, 61; A. Price, 60. Total, 650.

Hornsby.—S. Rhodes, 71; J. Gibson, 69; V. Parry, 68; C. Rogers, 68; E. Stentiford, 67; F. Garrard, 64; G. Kershaw, 62; H. Rhodes, 59; A. Rogers, 50; J. Rhodes, 53. Total, 637.

AUSTRALIAN GARRISON ARTILLERY RIFLE CLUB.

Prize-winners December quarter, 1908:—
"A" Class.—Lance-Sergt. Harrison, 123; S.S.M. De Vere, 119; Gunner Henderson, 117.
"B" Class.—Lieut. Grice, 124; Major Chaseling, 124; Gunner H. R. Hondt, 124; Gunner Wright, 121; Brigadier Allman, 120; Gunner Bingham, 116; Gunner Aldritch, 116; Brigadier Sheldon, 114; Gunner Ruskin, 114.

ARMIDALE, Monday.

The following are the prizewinners for the December sweepstakes of the Armidale Rifle Club, held on Wednesday and Saturday last:—A. Bower, score 70 (handicap 5), total 75; E. J. Golledge, 61 (10), 75 (limit); M. Purkiss, 59 (17), 75 limit; A. Godfrey, 57 (20), 75; R. Lennox, 71 (3), 74; S. A. Godfrey, 68 (6), 74; A. Jacobs, 64 (9), 73; H. Cavanagh, 68 (5), 73; L. Pickham, 65 (7), 72; R. T. Moore, 63 (8), 71; J. O'Neill, 66 (8), 70; W. Price, 68 (2), 70; H. W. Geldard, 63 (7), 70.

ALBION PARK, Tuesday.

Captain J. A. Raftery won the gold medal for the two best scores in the quarterly shooting of the Albion Park Rifle Club.

BALLINA, Tuesday.

A rifle match between Bangalow and Ballina clubs was shot on the local range on Saturday, the result being a win for Ballina by 75 points. The conditions were fifteen shots at 200 yards. Ballina team (eight men) scored 492, and Bangalow, 417. Subsequently, in practice, W. Cooper, captain of the Ballina corps, scored nine consecutive bullseyes at 500 yards.

BLACKTOWN, Tuesday.

A rifle club has been formed at Plumpton, with 20 members. Lieut.-Colonel Pringle has been elected president, Mr. Atkinson hon. treasurer, and Mr. Tom Veal hon. secretary. It is proposed to use a miniature rifle range for purposes of competition and practice.

DUBBO, Wednesday.

The following are the principal scores in the quarterly shooting of the Dubbo Civilian Rifle Club, at 500 and 600 yards:—Lieutenant Heane, 60; G. Paul, 58; T. Worthington, 57.

A team representing Dubbo will fire a match at Peak Hill on Boxing Day.

The following scores were made at the quarterly competition of the Light Horse Club, firing at the 500 and 600 yards:—Lieutenant Heane, 60; Sergeant G. Cross, 57.

The following are the Light Horse Club prize-winners for the December quarter, with handicap:—Sergeant F. M'Gregor, 59, 64 (hdcp. 4)—127; Mr. C. Wilkins, 60, 59 (4)—123; Sergeant G. Cross, 58, 58 (5)—124; Trooper A. Morris, 63, 51 (4) 118; Trumpeter V. Edwards, 44, 38 (32)—114; Trooper Heeth, 48, 50 (14)—112.

GUNNING, Monday.

The monthly shoot of 15 shots at 800 yards resulted as follows:—V. Booth (18), 69; W. Wilson (18), 69; H. K. Barlow (sc), 67; W. D. Ryrie (7), 67; L. Noble (7), 66; E. Fisher (7), 64; J. Sands (2), 64; R. Heuslip (2), 63; A. Bateup (5), 61; A. Dowler (12), 60; J. S. McCabe (10), 58; M. Noble (14), 57.

GOULBURN, Tuesday.

At the monthly competition of the Goulburn Rifle Club, seven shots at 800 and 900 yds, the following were successful:—R. D. Seale (6 points handicap) 66, H. G. Wright (4) 62, G. Folkard (10) 62, W. F. Withers (8) 61, G. Moore (8) 60.

MILLTHORPE, Tuesday.

Following are the scores for the last shoot of the December quarter, competition and practice. Competition shoot, 15 shots at 600yds:—D. J. Hamilton 56, C. Hazell 52, J. Isaacs 52, T. Bentley 45. Eight shots at each (practice), 600 and 700 yds:—F. Langdon 67, R. Foley 66, F. Evans 61, J. D. Stinson 59, T. Foley 56, J. Hazell 53, F. Snodden 48, R. Wenban 45.

Following are the prize-winners for December quarter, best two scores, with handicap:—A. Prist, 134 points, 1, £1; F. Langdon, 132 points, 2, 15s; A. Dowling, 132 points, 3, 12s 6d; A. H. Bennett, 131 points, 4, 10s; D. Donaldson, 131 points, 5, 7s 6d. W. Hockey, F. Evans, D. A. Stinson, and J. D. Stinson, 5s each. T. Foley, F. R. Wenban, R. Wenban, J. Hazell, W. R. Bentley, and E. Goode, 2s 6d each.

The following A and B teams have been selected to shoot against Bathurst A and Lithgow A teams at Millthorpe on Boxing Day:—A team, to shoot against Bathurst:—Capt. J. D. Stenson, F. G. Langdon, D. Donaldson, R. Cohen, F. R. Wenban, F. Evans, A. Prist, R. Wenban, A. H. Bennett, F. W. Hockey. B team, to shoot against Lithgow:—F. Snodden, W. R. Bentley, T. Bentley, A. Dowling, T. Foley, D. A. Stinson, E. Goode, W. Spicer, D. J. Hamilton, D. J. Wenban, R. Foley, and H. Bentley.

ORANGE, Friday.

A presentation was made this afternoon to the cadets of the Orange Superior Public School, who won the final matches for the public schools' shield of medals by Dr. Howse.

PORTLAND, Monday.

The following scores were made at the rifle range on Saturday in connection with the cup shoot, 500 and 600 yards:—R. Mason, 62; J. Eivers, 60; J. E. Cook, 60; E. Nicholls, 58; T. Tierney, 57; C. Wettig, 56; C. Miller, 54; G. McManus, 52; C. Kremer, 52; H. Chadwick, 48; J. Ryan, 48; J. Kemp, 47; A. Coates, 46.

In the quarterly competition for the cup, best three out of four shoots, the winners were: J. Eivers (6), 192; 1; R. Mason (scr), 191, 2; J. E. Cook (scr), 187, 3.

The silver medal presented by the N.R.A. was also competed for during this shoot, and was won by R. Mason, with 191 off the rifle. J. E. Cook, 187, and J. Eivers, 176, being second and third.

SINGLETON, Monday.

The local rifle club has been advised by Mr. H. Willis, M.P., that money has been voted in the estimates for the erection of a shelter shed, and the installation of a telephone between the targets and the mounds at the Combo range.

SHELLHARBOUR, Tuesday.

The monthly prize shooting of the local reserves took place on Saturday. The conditions were seven shots each at 500 and 600 yards; handicap limit 65. Following are the prize-winners:—H. Hobart, 32, 34—66; E. R. Bigg, 33, 32—65; G. Dumill (2), 29, 32—63; F. Condon (10), 28, 25—63; B. Couch (6), 32, 24—62.

TAMWORTH, Wednesday.

The principal prize-winners at the last shoot of the Tamworth Rifle Club, 14 shots at 600 yards, were:—C. Norton (scr), 65; G. Benson (handicap 7), 65; F. Smith (7), 61. Winners for the quarter's aggregate were:—W. Elwin, 201; J. Smith, C. Norton, D. Cameron, 196.

WELLINGTON, Saturday.

Some good shooting was put up at the 500yds and 600yds by the members of the Wellington Rifle Club. E. J. Barnes made 68 out of a possible 70, a score which has not been beaten on the range for years. The following are the scores:—E. J. Barnes, 68; J. W. Ross, 65; J. E. Bray, 61; S. Seach, 60; J. Deveson, 56; E. Kell, 56; A. B. Gage, 54; N. Seach, 50; G. Paul, 40; C. Rose, 36; J. Davey, 36.

Shooting for musketry Private Deveson, of the A.L.H., made 145 out of a possible 165. The score included three "possibles," and has only been beaten once, it is said, in the State during the musketry at present in progress.

Tuesday.

The following scores were made at 500 and 600 yards by the members of the Wellington Rifle Club on Saturday:—W. Selby 61, A. Barnes 60, S. Jennings 57, E. Kell 57, and S. Cock, 56.

WEST MAITLAND, Tuesday.

St. John's School cadets completed their musketry course at the Metford rifle range yesterday. The scores were:—Westley Richards' Rifle, 100, 300, and 400 yards: Coporal E. Barry, 129; Cadet C. Heaguey, 115; Sergt. F. Ferry, 114; Cadets C. Burg, 113; G. Mitchell, 112; J. Atkinson, 111; F. Crowe, 98; J. Murray, 91; J. O'Neill, 88; P. Fenelly, 63. The first seven qualified as marksmen. Francotte Rifle, 50, 100, and 200 yards: Cadets J. Drinan, 128; C. Howard, 122; J. Smith, 119; J. Flanagan, 110; C. Duffol, 105; D. Hickey, 91. Five qualified as marksmen.

MILITARY.

Lieut. McBrien, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, is at present in the Commonwealth as an exchange officer, and will be detailed to the New South Wales district from January 1, to the Easter camps of training, when he will return to Canada. He has already been in Victoria and Queensland.

The question of uniforms is to be thoroughly thrashed out. All commanding officers have been forwarded a memorandum prepared by Col. Legge, and expressions of opinion will be submitted by January 1.

Captain A. E. Christian, R.A.A., who has been undergoing a course of instruction in Great Britain during the past 12 months, has returned.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The following are among the notices gazetted by the Military Board:—

Appointments.—Colonel Bridges, R.A.A., from appointment of Chief of Intelligence, to be Chief of General Staff; Major and temporary Lieutenant-Colonel Legge from appointment of military secretary, to be quartermaster-general, administrative and instructional staff.

Transfers.—Major and Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel Irving from D.A.Q.M.G., New South Wales, to be D.A.A.G., New South Wales; Captain and Brevet-Major Wallace Brown to be D.A.Q.M.G., New South Wales.

Appointments.—2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment, New South Wales, Mounted Rifles: Reginald Wilson Lowe to be second-lieutenant, provisionally. 3rd Australian Light Horse, Regiment, Australian Horse: Patrick Kelly to be second-lieutenant, provisionally. 3rd Australian Infantry Regiment, first battery: Eric Atkinson to be second-lieutenant, provisionally, supernumerary to the establishment, pending the absorption. 4th Australian Infantr Regiment, 1st battalion: His Excellency William Humble, Early of Dudley, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Governor-General, and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia, to be honorary colonel. Australian Rifle Regiment, first battalion: Martin Shannon and Ernest Bosch to be lieutenants, provisionally; Walter Allerton to be second-lieutenant, provisionally, supernumerary to the establishment, pending absorption. Australian Intelligence Corps, New South Wales district: Rupert Hale to be lieutenant, provisionally. Australian Army Service Corps, militia establishment: Chester Reynolds to be second-lieutenant, provisionally.

Promotion.—Chaplain's department: Chaplain, second class, the Rev. H. J. Rose, V.D., to be chaplain, first class.

Transfers.—Australian Field Artillery: Second-Lieutenant Fowler, from the 8th Australian Infantry Regiment, second battalion, to be second-lieutenant, provisionally, supernumerary to establishment, pending absorption, with regimental seniority as from date of transfer. Unattached list: Lieutenant Bensusan, from 1st Australian Infantry, first battalion, to be lieutenant reserve of officers; Second-Lieutenant Campbell, from Australian Field Artillery, to be second-lieutenant; Second-Lieutenant Anderson, from New South Wales Scottish Rifle Regiment, first battalion, to be second-lieutenant.

Extension of Age for Retirement.—Second Australian Infantry Regiment, first battalion: Lieutenant-Colonel Mallarky, V.D., for nine months from February 6, 1909. 3rd Australian Infantry Regiment, first battalion: Lieutenant-Colonel Guest, C.D., for one year from January 11, 1909.

Extension of Period of Command.—3rd Australian Infantry Regiment, first battalion: Lieutenant-Colonel Guest, V.D., from March 1, 1909, to January 10, 1910.

Miscellaneous.—Australian Field Artillery: Second-Lieutenants J. V. Macken and K. Williams, hitherto borne as supernumeraries, are brought on the authorised establishment. Awards of medal for long service and good conduct—Permanent forces: Staff-company, Sergeant-major W. S. Smith, instruction staff; Sergeant C. A. Mitchell, Royal Australian Artillery; Gunner (musician), C. Olst, Royal Australian Artillery. Award of the colonial Auxiliary forces—Officers' decoration: Chaplain (second-class Rev. R. Heffernan, chaplains' department. Award of the colonial auxiliary forces' long-service medal: Driver J. W. Allen, Australian Army Service Corps. Appointments—Cadets Corps: Henry Jean Dale to be lieutenant on probation; William Sutherland M'Niven to be lieutenant on probation. Miscellaneous—Cadets: Lieutenant W. J. E. Lewis, hitherto borne as supernumerary, is brought on to the authorised establishment.

TRADES AND LABOUR.

SHIP PAINTERS AND DOCKERS' UNION.

The half-yearly meeting of this union was held in the rooms, Beattie-street, Balmain, on Monday night. The president, Mr. Geo. Dulstone, in the chair. The report and balance-sheet showed that the funds were in a sound position. The report dealt with the state of trade during the period under review, the months of July and August being very bad. Reference was also made to the Amended Scaffolding and Lifts Act, and a hope expressed that its provisions would be extended to vessels afloat. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. George Dulstone; vice-president, Mr. Hugh M'Millan; treasurer, Mr. John Martin; secretary, Mr. Robert Mahoney; assistant secretary, Mr. Jas. Patterson; trustees, Messrs. Jno. A. Bell, W. Rugg, and George Brennan; guardians, Messrs. A. Veil and Jas. Stevens; management committee, Messrs. A. Eastaughffe, Thos. Sheridan, Geo. M'Beath, H. Scrimshaw, Jos. Veil, Thos. Roffey, and John Griffiths; delegates to Sydney Labour Council, Geo. Dulstone, H. Scrimshaw, and R. Mahony.

COALCARTERS' BOARD.

The Coalcarters' Wages Board met at the Water Police Court, when certain proposals submitted by the employers were considered. Counter proposals were made by the union, and the board decided that the whole matter be again submitted to the coal merchants. The board adjourned until January 6.

TIPCARTERS' BOARD.

The Tipcarters' Board met at the Water Police Court for the purpose of determining the award. No settlement was arrived at, and the board adjourned to inspect various jobs in and around the city. The board will meet again to-day, and will then adjourn until after the new year.

TROLLY AND DRAYMEN.

The collection organised by the Trolly and Draymen's Union for the purpose of providing Christmas cheer for injured and distressed members was opened on Saturday, and yesterday had realised £60 10s.

UNITED FURNITURE TRADES.

The United Furniture Trades Society met at the Trades Hall, with Mr. P. Slater in the chair. The chairman extended a welcome to the Wire Mattress Workers, who attended for the first time since their affiliation with the society. It was reported that their membership totalled 33. Nominations were received for the election of delegates to attend the conference at Melbourne with regard to the federation of the furniture trade societies throughout Australasia. The election will take place at the next meeting.

BOOKBINDERS' BOARD.

The Bookbinders' Wages Board, consisting of Mr. G. C. Addison (chairman), Mr. W. Brookes (employers' representative), and Mr. Fred. Thornton (employees' representative), met at the Industrial Court.

The union claims a 44-hours week and a wage of 60s per week for all employed in the trade. The employers offer a 48-hours week, and two rates of wages, one for bookbinders and another for cutters, both below that asked for by the union.

Alf. Primrose, who has been employed in the trade for 20 years as a bookbinder and cutter, stated that he received 56s per week. Up to November last he was only getting 52s. The work was laborious, and contained an element of risk. He often refused to work overtime.

The Bookbinders' Wages Board met again yesterday at the Industrial Court, when the employees concluded their evidence in support of their claim. The secretary of the union (Mr. Frank Bunting) stated that the union's claim for £3 a week for all in the trade was moderate, as in Melbourne the men were claiming £3 5s. The proportion of apprentices now existing was sufficient to meet the requirements of the trade. In Melbourne cutters were placed upon the same footing as bookbinders. The masters opened their case, and the board adjourned.

BREWERIES' BOARD AWARD.

The wages board which sat to determine the rates of wages and conditions of labour for brewery employees has made its award. The award provides for a 48 hours week, made up of 8½ hours for the first five days and 5½ hours on Saturdays. Draymen, carters, and grooms shall work 57 hours a week.

The wages have been fixed as follows:—

Minimum Wage.—Yardmen, £2 4s a week; cellarmen, £2 6s; mill hands, £2 6s; malt storemen, £2 6s; malt housemen, £2 6s; tun-room men, £2 6s; tower men, £2 8s.

Boys' Wages.—Under 16 years, 10s a week; under 17, 15s; under 18, 20s; under 19, 25s; under 20, 30s; under 21, 35s.

Bottling Department.—Bottlers, £2 3s a week; brushers and shotters, £2 2s; packers, £2 4s.

Drivers of one horse, £2 3s a week; drivers of two horses, £2 8s; drivers of three horses, £2 11s; grooms, £2 2s.

Overtime has been fixed at ordinary rates for the first two hours, and time and a quarter thereafter.

The conditions of the award relating to wages and overtime will date from December 28, 1908. Other conditions will date from February 1, 1909. The award will remain in force for three years.

STEAM CRANE DRIVERS.

The annual meeting of the Steam Crane Engine Drivers' Union was held at the Trades Hall last night, when the following officers were elected:—President, W. Thornton; vice-president, J. M'Gery; treasurer, George Patterson; secretary, W. Spence; delegates to the council, T. Woofindin and J. Hasty, sen.

The union also decided to register under the Industrial Disputes Act.

Give Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy a trial, and you will use no other.—Advt.

The Agricultural and Pastoral Notes in this week's issue of the "Sydney Mail" deal with important subjects.—Advt.

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FUNERALS.

ANDERSON.—The Friends of Mrs. MARY E. ANDERSON and FAMILY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of her dearly-loved HUSBAND and their FATHER, Andrew, which will move from his late residence, 1 Woodlark-street, Rozelle, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 2.30, for Church of England Cemetery, Field of Mars.
WOOD and COMPANY, Funeral Directors.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH LODGE, No. 33, L.O.L.—The Officers and Members of No. 33 and kindred Lodges are earnestly invited to attend the Funeral of our late Brother, ANDREW ANDERSON; to move from his late residence, No. 1 Woodlark-st, Rozelle, THIS DAY, at 2.30 p.m., for the Field of Mars Cemetery.

ANDERSON.—The Friends and Members of Bethel, No. 628, R.B.P., and kindred Preceptories are earnestly requested to attend the Funeral of our late Sir Kt. and Brother, ANDREW ANDERSON; to move from his late residence, No. 1 Woodlark-st, Rozelle, THIS DAY, THURSDAY, for Field of Mars Cemetery.

BAXTER.—A MASS will be celebrated in St. Mary's R. C. Church, Concord, THIS THURSDAY, at 9 a.m., for the eternal repose of the soul of the late Mrs. MARION BAXTER. Funeral will leave the Church immediately afterwards, by road, for Rookwood Cemetery, arriving there about 11 a.m.
Mrs. P. KIRBY and SON, Limited,
7 Elizabeth-street, city. Tel., 875 Cent.

BRAIN.—The Funeral of the late Miss KATEY BRAIN will leave the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, THIS (Thursday) MORNING, at 8.15 o'clock, for the Church of England Cemetery, Waverley.
WOOD and COMPANY,
Funeral Directors, Sydney and Suburbs.
Tel., 726, etc.

BRENNAN.—The Friends of Mr. JAMES BRENNAN and FAMILY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of his late beloved WIFE and their MOTHER; to move from their residence, Brennan's-road, Arncliffe, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at ½ past 1 o'clock, for Sutherland Cemetery, by 2.10 p.m. train from Sydney. CHAS. KINSELA, Funeral Director, Rockdale, and 765 George-st, city. Tel., 203 and 6 Kog.

BRENNAN.—P.A.F.S., Queen Jubilee Lodge, No. 77. —The Officers and Members of the above Lodge and Order are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of late WIFE of Bro. JAMES BRENNAN; to move from Brennan's-road, Arncliffe, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, for Sutherland Cemetery, at 1.30, by train leaving Sydney at 2.10 p.m., via Arncliffe. H. BREAKSPEARE, W.M.; R. C. PAYNTER, Secretary.

CHAPMAN.—The Funeral of the late Mrs. W. E. CHAPMAN will leave her late residence, 49 Kensington-road, Summer Hill, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 2 o'clock, for the Church of England Cemetery, Necropolis, via Summer Hill Station.
WOOD and COMPANY,
Tel., 726. Funeral Directors.

CLARKE.—The Friends of Mrs. BETHTHIAH CLARKE will leave her late residence, Ancona, 49 Thomas-street, Petersham, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 2 p.m., for the Independent Cemetery, Necropolis, via Petersham station.
WOOD and COMPANY,
Tel., 276. Funeral Directors.

CLEARY.—The Friends of the late Mrs. MARY CLEARY (relict of the late Martin Cleary) are kindly invited to attend her Funeral; to move from her daughter's residence, Drayton, 127 Augustus-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.30, for Petersham station, thence to R.C. Cemetery, Rookwood.
CROCKETT and COMPANY,
Tel., 207 P'sham. Undertakers, Leichhardt.

CLEARY.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. R. TOVEY and Mr. and Mrs. J. CLEARY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly loved MOTHER, the late Mary Cleary; to move from Drayton, 127 Augustus-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.30, for R.C. Cemetery, Rookwood.

CLEARY.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN JAMES and FAMILY (of Kippax-street, Surry Hills) are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly loved MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, the late Mary Cleary; to move from 127 Augustus-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.30, for Rookwood.

CLEARY.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. INGHAM BELL and FAMILY (of 40 O'Sullivan-st, S.H.) are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, the late Mary Cleary; to leave 127 Augustus-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.30, for Rookwood Cem.

CLEARY.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. STANLEY JOHNSON are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly loved GRANDMOTHER, the late Mary Cleary; to move from her daughter's residence, 127 Augustus-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.30, for R.C. Cemetery, Rookwood, via P'sham stn.

GREENACRE.—The Friends of Mrs. GEORGE GREENACRE and FAMILY, late of Dulwich Hill, are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of her late dearly-loved HUSBAND and their FATHER; to leave his late residence, Strathmore, The Oaks, Picton, THIS DAY, for Bringelly Cemetery, 3 o'clock.

HENDERSON.—The Friends of the late Mr. ANDREW HENDERSON, of the Market Hotel, Market-street, city, will leave our Mortuary Chapel, 810-2 George-street, city, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 1.45 o'clock, for Presbyterian Cemetery, Necropolis.
WOOD and COMPANY, Funeral Directors,
Sydney, Petersham, and Suburbs. Tel., 726, etc.

HENDERSON.—The Friends of Mrs. ANDREW HENDERSON are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of her late beloved HUSBAND, Mr. Andrew Henderson; which will leave our Mortuary Chapel, 810-2 George-street, city, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 1.45 o'clock, for Presbyterian Cemetery, Necropolis.

HENDERSON.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. KAY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved SON-IN-LAW, Mr. Andrew Henderson; which will leave our Mortuary Chapel, 810-2 George-street, city, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 1.45 o'clock, for the Presbyterian Cemetery, Necropolis.

HENDERSON.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. JAMES MASON are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved NEPHEW, Mr. Andrew Henderson; which will leave our Mortuary Chapel, 810-2 George-street, city, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 1.45 o'clock, for the Presbyterian Cemetery, Necropolis.

HUTCHINSON.—The Friends of the late JOHN HUTCHINSON are kindly invited to attend his Funeral; to leave the residence of his SISTER, Mrs. Robinson, 53 Regent-street, Paddington (late of Windsor-street), THIS DAY, Thursday, at 3 p.m., for Waverley Cemetery. W. CARTER, Undertaker, Wav.

HUTCHINSON.—The Friends of Mrs. BELL and Mrs. ROBINSON are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved BROTHER, John Hutchinson; to leave 53 Regent-street, Paddington, THIS DAY, Thursday, at 3 p.m., for Waverley Cemetery.
W. CARTER, Undertaker, Waverley.

LANCASHIRE.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. ERNEST LANCASHIRE are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved MOTHER; to leave her daughter's residence, 314 Abercrombie-street, Redfern, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 1.15, for the Necropolis, via Mortuary Station.
Tel., 126, 424, etc. COFFILL and COMPANY.

LANCASHIRE.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. TUPPER and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, Mrs. Isabella V. Lancashire; to leave their residence, 314 Abercrombie-street, Redfern, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.15, for the Necropolis. COFFILL and COMPANY.

LANCASHIRE.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. MILEY and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, Mrs. Isabella V. Lancashire; to leave 314 Abercrombie-street, Redfern, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.15, for the Necropolis. COFFILL and COMPANY.

LANCASHIRE.—The Friends of Mrs. ANNIE McAULIFFE and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, Mrs. Isabella V. Lancashire; to leave 314 Abercrombie-street, Redfern, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.15, for Necropolis. COFFILL and CO.

LANCASHIRE.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS HALL and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved SISTER and AUNT, Mrs. Isabella V. Lancashire; to leave 314 Abercrombie-street, Redfern, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.15, for Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Sydney and Suburbs.

LEWIS.—The Friends of the deceased Mrs. CATHERINE LEWIS, of Gladesville Bridge, Drummoyne, are kindly invited to attend her Funeral; to move from St. Vincent's Hospital THIS THURSDAY, at 2.45 p.m., for the Waverley Cemetery.
Mrs. P. KIRBY and SON, Ltd.,
Undertakers,
51 Darlinghurst-road. Tel., 675.

LINDBERG.—The Friends of the late Mr. AUGUST LINDBERG are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral; to leave 224 Darling-street, Balmain, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 2 o'clock, for Field of Mars Cemetery.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
114 Weston-road and 7 Beattie-street,
Balmain.

LINDBERG.—The Friends of Mrs. ELIZABETH LINDBERG and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of her dear HUSBAND and their dear FATHER, August Lindberg; to move from their residence, 224 Darling-street, Balmain, THIS AFTERNOON, at 2.30, for Field of Mars Cemetery.

LINDBERG.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. JOSEPH STEEL and FAMILY, and Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT STEEL and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late BROTHER-IN-LAW, August Lindberg; to move from his residence, 224 Darling-st, Balmain, TO-DAY, at 2.30, for the Field of Mars Cem.

LOSEBY.—The Friends of Mrs. GEORGE LOSEBY and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved SON and BROTHER, Richard; to move from 41 Dangar-place, Sydney, THIS DAY, at 1.30, for Mortuary Station, thence for R. C. Cemetery, Rookwood, via No. 1 Mortuary Station.
GEORGE ANDREWS, Undertaker,
'Phone, 155 N. 60 Australia-street, Newtown.

NEILAN.—The Friends of Messrs. MARTIN, JOHN, JAMES, FRANK, and Miss CATHERINE NEILAN are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved MOTHER, which will leave Mortuary Station, Regent-street, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, by 2.22 Funeral Train, for the Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Funeral Directors.

NEILAN.—The Friends of Mrs. RUSSELL and Mrs. CARMODY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved SISTER, Mrs. Catherine Neilan; to leave Mortuary Station, Regent-street, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, by 2.22 Funeral Train, for the Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Sydney and Suburbs.

NICHOLAS.—The Friends of Mr. R. W. NICHOLAS, of Paradise, Elsmore, are kindly informed that the Funeral of his beloved WIFE will leave the Methodist Church, Randwick (after service), THIS MORNING, at ½ past 9 o'clock, for the Waverley Cemetery.
JOSEPH MEDCALF, Undertaker,
Redfern.

NICHOLAS.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. FINLAYSON are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved MOTHER, Mrs. Mary A. Nicholas, which will leave the Methodist Church, Randwick, THIS MORNING, at 9.30, for the Waverley Cemetery.
J. MEDCALF, Undertaker, Redfern.

NICHOLAS.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. EDWARD TREGENZA are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved SISTER, Mrs. Mary A. Nicholas, which will leave the Methodist Church, Randwick, THIS MORNING, at 9.30, for Waverley Cemetery.

ROSE.—The Friends of the late AUGUSTUS (JAMES) ROSE (for many years in the Railway Department) are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral; to leave his late residence, Surrey, Homebush-crescent, Homebush, THIS THURSDAY, at 1.45 p.m., for St. Anne's Church of England, Homebush, thence by road to Church of England Cemetery, Rookwood. By request, no flowers.
WOOD and COMPANY, Funeral Directors,
Sydney, Petersham, and Suburbs. Tel., 726, etc.

STOKES.—The Funeral of the late SARAH STOKES will leave the Western Suburbs Cottage Hospital, Croydon, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at 2 o'clock, for C. E. Cemetery, Rookwood, via Croydon Station.
F. J. FIELD, Funeral Director, Ashfield.
Telep., 143A.

W. N. BULL, UNDERTAKER.
Head Office, 164 King-street, Newtown. City Office, Railway Buildings, Pitt-street, opp. Rawson-place.
Telephones: Newtown, 9; City, 878.
Branches all Suburbs.

WOOD AND COMPANY,
THE LEADING FIRM OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS.
Our superior facilities—modern equipment and exceptional organisation of trained employees, combined—enable us to supply a service of demonstrated utility upon occasions demanding the utmost tact and reverence. Our charges are consistently lower than any other Firm.
WOOD and COMPANY,
Head Office and Mortuary Chapel, 810-12 George-street, Sydney. Tel., 726, etc. Branches All Suburbs.

COFFILL AND COMPANY,
BY CONSISTENT EFFICIENCY,
AND SUPERIORITY OF EQUIPMENT,
we have obtained
THE FOREMOST POSITION AS FUNERAL DIRECTORS
while still maintaining the Reduced Charges originated by us.
HEAD OFFICE AND MORTUARY CHAMBERS,
472-4 HARRIS-STREET. Tel., 1160.
CENTRAL OFFICE, 735 George-street. Tel., 424.
For Suburban Branches see Telephone Guide.

DOYLE and JUKES, MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS, Tram Terminus, WAVERLEY, near Cemetery; and at Lismore, Richmond River. Estimates and Designs Free on application. Tel., 206 Waverley.

PITT-STREET HORDERNS' FOR MOURNING DRESS GOODS.
OUR BLACK DRESS GOODS are perfect in colour, and guaranteed "Fast Dye." Send for samples.
Telephones: 1184 and 2650.
HORDERN BROTHERS, 203-207 PITT-STREET, and 422 George-street, SYDNEY.

COMPLIMENTARY MOURNING.
Smart Trimmed Black HATS, from 12s 6d.
Dainty Black Millinery BONNETS, from 15s 6d.
Widows' COLLARS and CUFFS, from 2s 2d set.
Ready-to-wear Black Costume SKIRTS, from 4s 11d.
Widows' CAPS and MOURNING CAPS, from 2s 11d.
Ready-to-Wear Black Material BLOUSES, from 7s 6d.
Black Silk BLOUSES, from 9s 11d.
Black Sateen BLOUSES, from 3s 11d.
Prompt Attention to all Mourning Orders.
WAY'S IN PITT-STREET.

XMAS. XMAS. XMAS. XMAS. XMAS. XMAS.

XMAS EVE.
COME TO-DAY.
THE DAY OF ALL DAYS,
TO
GOULSTON BROS.',
ON THE HILL,
BRICKFIELD-HILL.
PREPARATIONS
HAVE BEEN MADE
TO SERVE
30,000 CUSTOMERS.
ON THE HISTORIC SLOPE
OF
BRICKFIELD-HILL.

MARCUS CLARK & CO., LTD.
ALL OUR PREMISES ARE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
TO-DAY
UNTIL 10 P.M.
MARCUS CLARK and CO., Ltd.,
SYDNEY, AND BRANCHES.

NICKEL Penknives given away with Youths' Suits at Lowe's, George and Oxford sts. Open till 10 to-night.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.

THE ORIGINAL Mr. and Mrs. BENJAMIN still continue to give the utmost value for all kinds of LEFT-OFF CLOTHING, Portmanteaux, Old Gold, Silver, and all kinds of Sundries. We send no representatives. 'Phone, 2614.
Elizabeth and Goulburn streets.

LEFT-OFF CLOTHING.—Mr. and Mrs. GOLDSTEIN guar. to give extreme value for Ladies', Gentn.'s Clothing, every description, Gold, H. Linen, Teeth, Portmanteaux, Hats, Rugs, Boots, Boxes, Furs. All articles bought sep. Please give us a trial. Letters attended to; dist. no obj. 137 Bathurst-st. T., 2566.

LEFT-OFF CLOTHING Bought to any amount.—Mr. and Mrs. BARNETT, 43 and 45 Foveaux-street, city, the oldest Dealers, of 40 years' standing, have a great demand for all kinds of Left-off Clothing. We give 50-100 p.c. more than other dealers. Old Gold, Teeth, Household Linen, Portmanteaux, Trunks, Miscellaneous Articles Bought. Letters and Telephone messages promptly attended to. Tel., 128 Paddington.

LEFT-OFF CLOTHING BUYERS.
Mr. and Mrs. WOOLF, of 112 114, and 115 Bathurst-street, respectfully inform Ladies and Gentlemen that they are the oldest and most reliable Wardrobe Dealers in the State, and are prepared to allow the utmost value for every description of LEFT-OFF CLOTHING, Portmanteaux, Trunks, Old Gold, Artificial Teeth, Silver Plate, Linen, etc. All letters and appointments punctually attended to. Please to observe our only address.
Telephone, 4152.

LEFT-OFF CLOTHING PURCHASED.
Mr. and Mrs. MITCHELL, 145, 147, 131 Bathurst-street, respectfully inform Ladies and Gentlemen that they still continue to give extreme value for every description of Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Children's Left-off Clothing, Uniforms, Furniture, Bed Linen, Plated Ware, Old Gold, and Artificial Teeth, Rugs, Trunks. Ladies changing for mourning please note. We also supply other colonies. Letters and parcels immediately attended to. We send no representatives.
Telephone, 4343.

LEFT-OFF CLOTHING BUYERS.—Mrs. and Miss LEWIS will allow the utmost value for any kind of Left-off Clothing. Letters and telephone pr. att. Please give us a trial. 92 George-st W. Tel., 468 Glb.

OLD CHINA, Old Silver, Pictures, Coins, Medals, Books, Australian Relics, and Curios of all kinds; highest price given. HARRY DAVIS,
'Phone, 39 Glebe. 197 George-street West.

BOOKS.—Wanted to Buy, new or 2nd-h., any quantity. Cole's Second-hd. Book Shop, 383 George-st.

MONARCH Gramophone, second-hand, good order, with or without records. Gramophone, Herald.

FAT Bought or Soap in Exch., letters att. W. Castle, 61 Raglan-st, Darl'ton. Tel., 494 Newt.

STAMPS.—Highest prices paid for Australians. Send for Price List. Fred. Hagen, Ltd., 182 Pitt-st.

GAS STOVE, Eureka or Raleigh, out of order no objection. Maker, size, price, 98 Nelson-st, Annan.

WANTED, small QUADRANT or SEXTANT. State price, Quadrant, Herald.

WANTED to Buy, small Model YACHT or Boat. Apply Box 1035, G.P.O., Sydney.

WANTED, good Phonograph, with Records, cheap. W. T. Everett, Mercury-st, Penshurst.

FOR SALE.

JNO. C. LOVELL AND CO., 278 GEORGE-STREET (near Hunter-street),
ANTIQUE SILVER, OLD SHEFFIELD PLATE, RARE OLD ENGLISH, ORIENTAL, AND FOREIGN CHINA,
PICTURES, BRONZES, AND CURIOS.
ANTIQUE FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART.
THE LARGEST STOCK IN THE COMMONWEALTH.
FOR SALE AT MODERATE PRICES.

EDISON PHONOGRAPHS, GRAMOPHONES. Cash or terms. Lists posted.
Standards, £4 4s; Homes, £6 6s; Triumphs, £10 10s. Monarch Junior Gramophones, £8; Seniors, £15 15s. Best stock of Edison Gramophone and Zonophone Record in the city. Write or call.
TALKING MACHINE CO.,
470 George-street.

EDISON Xmas Records ready, also the French Bands, October numbers, and Lauder's. Come and hear Billy Williams' latest hit. If you are getting an Edison Phonograph let us fit the new Star Diaphragm to the Speaker. The improvement is simply wonderful. Obtainable only at COOPER'S, 64 Regent-st, city, and 352 Oxford-street, Paddington. Open on Saturday till 10 p.m. Closed on Monday.

BEST PASPALUM SEED (Hand Shaken from the Growing Crop) for Sale; also, Orders booked for coming season's crop. We harvest from our own paddocks.
R. W. THOMPSON, Jun., and CO.,
Mullumbimby.

TYPEWRITERS, second-hand and rebuilts, all makes, in perfect order, from £5.
N.S.W. TYPEWRITER EXCHANGE,
9 Rowe-street, Sydney.

FOR SALE, new Calico TENT and light duck Fly, tent measures 10 x 14 x 6ft walls, fly 14 x 18, cheap. Apply 167 The Strand.

LARGE QUANTITY of SCRAP LEATHER, suitable for all kinds of Leather Repairs.
J. C. LUDOWICI and SON, Ltd.,
117 York-street, Sydney.

STERLING Special Records, 1s ea.; Edison Sept. Records. American and British Titles, now ready. Phonographs from 2s 6d weekly. STERLING PARLOURS, 299 Pitt-street (opp. Criterion).

CAMERA, new, half-plate, triple extension, 6 d.d. slides, T.P. shutter, tripod, and cloth; all have leather cases; sell £10, cost £18. ½-plate Adelphi, £3; also lot Accessories, half-price. 254 Kent-street.

WERTHEIM, Wonderful Sewing Machines, cash or terms. Planos. C. Forsberg, 86 William-st.

(For continuation see Index to Advertisements.)

XMAS EVE.
WAY'S IN PITT-STREET
REMAIN OPEN TO-DAY UNTIL 10 P.M.
Ladies:—
Come into Pitt-street and do your XMAS SHOPPING.
The Cheapest Shop in Town for XMAS PRESENTS is
WAY'S IN PITT-STREET

WHERE SHOPPING TOUCHES THE PURSE BUT LIGHTLY—
GRACE BROS.,
THE MODEL STORE,
BROADWAY.
CHRISTMAS BARGAINS
AT THE MODEL STORE.
Right now is the time to secure a Costume worth £3/3. Reduced to .... 30/. GRACE BROS. have purchased a Manufacturer's Stock of SICILIAN and FANCY SICILIAN COSTUMES, in Navy, Black, Cream, and Light Mixtures, which we are offering at Half their real Value, viz., 30/. They are worth Double.
WHY MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMY.
A Dress for Christmas at less than Manufacturer's Cost.
LOOK IN OUR WINDOW.
SPECIAL BAND ENTERTAINMENT.
We have arranged for a SPECIAL BAND ENTERTAINMENT, in addition to the Exhibition of these Goods, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The NEWTOWN BRASS BAND will render some choice Selections of Popular Music. And we feel sure that this Entertainment will be appreciated by all the Visitors at THE MODEL STORE To-day.
OPEN TILL 10 P. M.
GRACE BROS.,
THE MODEL STORE,
BROADWAY,
THE HOUSE THAT KEEPS FAITH WITH THE PUBLIC.

RY-CELA. RY-CELA,
CEREAL CREAM FLAKES
FOR MAKING PUDDINGS, CUSTARDS,
BLANC MANGES, etc.
The only white Food of its kind that possesses a distinct FOOD VALUE. See report of Analyst on each packet.
ALL GROCERS and STOREKEEPERS.

LOWE'S Stores advise you to shop early to-day, and avoid the great rush in the evening. Geo., Oxf. sts.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
May be useful as well as Beautiful. We have a large selection of such articles as SCREENS, EASY CHAIRS, TABOURETTES, Shelves, Cupboards, Occasional Tables, Palm Stands, Cushion Covers, Serviettes, Lace Tray Cloths, Rugs, and a hundred and one other articles that are low in price, but extremely useful, and would admirably serve the purpose of Christmas Souvenirs.
Whilst in Town visitors should call and see our Specimen Furnished Rooms, which have been specially designed to show Furniture in its natural surroundings.
All Goods marked in Plain Figures.
BEARD, WATSON, LTD.,
361-363 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.

OSTRICH FEATHERS.
from our Famous Farms in South Africa.
1/, 3/, 5/, 7/6, 10/6 each.
(9in) (10in) (12in) (13in) (15in)
Black, White, Cream, Natural, or Fancy Colours. Sent Post Free anywhere on receipt of Postal Notes. Write for Catalogues Free.
MILLER'S FEATHER SHOP,
corner STRAND ARCADE, PITT-STREET.
Mention Sydney Morning Herald.

LOWE'S White Drill Boys' Tunics 4s 11d, Tunic Suits 7s 11d, Alpaca Coats 5s 11d. George and Oxford sts.

HOUSES, LAND, ETC., WANTED.

A.—YOUR Property offered at Auction, Fee, £1, covers cost of advertising, notice boards, inspection; no other charges unless successful. Land subdivided. Ernest C. V. Broughton, the Stock Exchange.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at
84B PITT-STREET.

BUSINESS Premises or Cott., with outbuild., suit. workshop wtd. Partics., Commerce, Herald.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

SEVEN or 8 rmd. Residence, close city, North Sydney preferred. T. W. Taylor, 5 Moore-st.

SMALL mod. Cott., at North Shore, handy to 1d sec., rent 10s or 12s p. wk. 883, Herald.

STANMORE or Enmore.—Wanted, pr. Single or Dble. Fronted Cottages. Partics., Cymry, Herald.

UNFURNISHED GENTLEMAN'S RESIDENCE, good tenant, no children, 4 bedrooms, 3 reception-rooms, 2 maids' rooms, storeroom, cellar if possible, moderate-sized garden, Potts Point, Darling Point, or Woollahra, not beyond Edgecliff preferred.
Box 496, G.P.O.

WANTED, FACTORY SITE, suit machinery business, £7000. Backhouse and Goyder, 90 Pitt-st.

TO LET.

A HOUSE, 5 rooms, newly papered, bath, gas, only 2 min. station, 10s. Kyogle, George-st, Burwood.

ARTHUR RICKARD and CO., Ltd., are selling LAND LOTS at CRONULLA on BOXING DAY. The terms are the easiest ever offered there, and the Lots on the Tramway Estate—some of the best. Nearly a quarter-acre in area is each one, and the terms but £1 down, 10s month. Special 2s Tickets may be obtained from the Auctioneers, including Return Trip by train and 'bus, and Refreshments. Plans and Illustrated Booklets Free. Ask at
84B PITT-STREET.

BONDI.—Nice furn. Cottage, 5 rms., piano, etc. Reay, 20 Woodstock-st, Bondi.

BONDI BEACH.—A well-furn. New COTTAGE HOME, never been occupied, ev. conf. and conv., near beach and tram, immediate possession. GLENROY, Edward-st, Bondi, leave tram at Denham-st.

BONDI JUNCTION.—New Brick COTTAGE, detached, 4 rooms, hall, kitchen, etc., 17s 6d.
ROSE BAY, good position, near tram.—New Brick COTTAGE, 5 rooms, kitchen, etc., £1 for term.
INTERCOLONIAL INVESTMENT CO., Ltd.,
14 Moore-street, city.

FURN. Cotts., Mosm., tennis, views, all sizes, 25s, 35s, £2 2s, £3 3s. Griffiths, Avenue-rd. T., 146 M.

FURNISHED plainly, small Gothic Cottage, piano, and garden, 12s 6d. 9 Walter-st, Croydon, nr. stn.

FURNISHED COTTAGE, 5 large rms., £2 2s. Nissen, 147 Bondi-rd, Bondi. Leave tram Wellington-st.

FURNISHED, Gentleman's RESIDENCE and Grounds, best position in RANDWICK, 2 or 3 months from 14th January. Apply
HARDIE and GORMAN, 133 Pitt-street.

FURNISHED, AT SPIT-ROAD, MOSMAN (4 mins. from baths), a Modern STONE RESIDENCE, contg. 8 rooms and offices. GROUNDS about 1 acre. TENNIS COURT. A NOMINAL RENT TO GOOD TENANT. TO LET FOR 6 MONTHS.
Cards to view, WALKER BROS., 129 Pitt-street.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON BUILDINGS, 62 PITT-STREET, CITY.
To Let, after 27th inst., DOUBLE OFFICE on 1st floor; low rent to good tenant for term. Apply C. GERARD PHILLIPS, 62 Pitt-street.

MANLY.—Furn., New House, and Furniture, front beach. Robey.

MANLY.—Furnished HOUSES, Apartments, B. and R., etc. A. Tucker, 15 Ashburner-st (late Ocean B.)

MANLY.—Cottage, 5 bedrms., sitting, min. beach, £3. Butler, agent, Dulwich Hill. Tel., 230 Pet.

MOSMAN.—4 to 10 rms., 12s, 15s, 16s 6d, 20s, 30s, £150. Griffiths and Co., Avenue-rd. T., 146 M.

MOSMAN, Gladstone-av.—Well-built Villa, Casa, 5 rms. W. G. Whiting, Bull's-cha., Moore-st.

MANLY.—Furnished COTTAGES to LET, from £2 10s to £6 6s. See my list.
SYDNEY BRIGNELL, Trustees' Agent,
18 Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

NEUTRAL BAY.—Only 2 left.—Pretty and Artistic Cottages, 7 large rooms, kit., and all mod. domestic accommodation, most conveniently situated, £78 p.a. E. DE GYULAY, 108 Pitt-street.

NORTH SYDNEY HEIGHTS.—No. 37 Ridge-street, comfortable 2-story Brick Residence, contg. 5 rooms, bathroom, kitchen, washhouse. Rent 21s p. wk.
NEUTRAL BAY.—89 Ben Boyd-road, Brick Cottage, 4 rooms and kitchen. Rent, 10s per week.
Apply C. GERARD PHILLIPS, 62 Pitt-street, Sydney.

SMARTEST GOODS AT LOWEST PRICES.
WATERS' XMAS EXHIBITION
OPEN UNTIL 10 P.M. TO-DAY.
To all of our CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS, both in City and Country, we wish
A VERY HAPPY XMAS,
and we hope that ALL JOY and GOOD THINGS will be their lot during the days to come.
LADIES and GENTLEMEN who have not yet purchased their XMAS PRESENTS can do so to-day and this evening right up to 10 o'clock.

GLOVES FOR PRESENTS.
A PAIR OF GLOVES is always a safe present, and if you do not know your friend's size we will be pleased to exchange them for the correct size if the size purchased is not correct.
KID GLOVES, in all shades—
2/6 pair, 3 pairs for 6/11, 6 pairs for 13/9.
3/11 pair, 3 pairs for 10/11, 6 pairs for 21/6.
4/11 pair, 3 pairs for 13/11, 6 pairs for 27/6.
5/11 pair, 3 pairs for 16/6, 6 pairs for 32/6.
SUEDE GLOVES, in all shades—
3/6, 3 pairs for 9/6, 6 pairs for 18/11.
4/6, 3 pairs for 12/3, 6 pairs for 23/6.
5/11, 3 pairs for 16/6, 6 pairs for 32/6.
6/6, 3 pairs for 17/11, 6 pairs for 35/6.

VEILS FOR PRESENTS.
A SMART VEIL will make a present that a lady will receive with pleasure.
Like Gloves, my lady cannot have too many.
CHIFFON VEILS, Ready to Wear, with H.S. Border, 1½yds. long, in all shades, at 2/3 each.
NINON VEILS, Ready to Wear, 2yds. long, with Border, in Ivory, White, Champagne, Moss Reseda, Brown, Mole, at 4/6 each.
VEILS WITH CHENILLE SPOTS AND CHENILLE BORDER, in all shades, 1/11½, 2/11, 3/11, 4/11, and 5/11 each.
CREPE DE CHINE VEILS, 1½yds long, with H.S. Border, in White, Moss, Myrtle, Navy, Sky, Pink, Brown, etc. at 5/11 each.
CHIFFON VEILS, with H.S. Border, in all conceivable shades, at 1/6 each.
WHITE LACE WASHING VEILS, at 1/6, 1/9, and 1/11 per yard.
RUSSIA NET VEILING, just opened, in Nattier Blue, White, Cerise, Pink, Brown, Mole, Navy, Moss, and Cinnamon, 1/9½ and 1/11½ per yard.

NECKWEAR FOR PRESENTS.
GIBSON COLLAR BANDS, in White and Paris with Frilled Edge, 1/, 1/3, 1/6, to 4/6.
CHIFFON NECK RUFFLES, all shades, 1/11½.
MUSLIN TIES, 11½d, 1/3, 1/6, 1/9, 1/11.
LADIES' SILK TIES, 3in wide, all colours, 8½d, 1/, 1/3, 1/6, 1/9.
PIQUE AMERICAN STOCKS—
White, with Coloured Edges, 10½d each.
White, with Ribbon Knot, 1/3 each.
EMBROIDERY STOCKS, with Coloured Edges, 1/ each.
EMBROIDERED DOUBLE LINEN COLLARS, with Frill all round; in sizes 13, 13½, 14, 14½, and 15 in, 1/ and 1/3 each.

THE LATEST HOSIERY.
BLACK COTTON HOSE, with Coloured Circular Stripes. A Special Line, 1/0½ pair.
Better Qualities, 1/3½, 1/6½, 1/11, 2/6.
COTTON and LISLE HOSE, in Stripes and Checks, All Colours, 1/6½, 1/11½, and 2/6.
BLACK CASHMERE HOSE, with Coloured Shot Effects, 2/6 pair.
BLACK CASHMERE HOSE, with Tartan Plaid Fronts, Assorted Colours, 2/3 pair.

SMART PARASOLS.
A PARASOL OR UMBRELLA will make an acceptable Present, especially if it is one of our New Season's Smart Models.
A GRAND SELECTION IN BLACK, WHITE, and COLOURED SILK, in PLAIN and FANCY DESIGNS, with the Latest Handles and Mounts, from 7/6 each.
WHITE COTTON PARASOLS, with Fancy Floral Borders, 3/11, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6, 7/6.

FANCY GOODS FOR PRESENTS.
DAINTY NOVELTIES in BAGS, MATCH and PIPE STANDS, PHOTO FRAMES, MANICURE SETS, WRITING CASES, and hundreds of other articles that will make Pleasing Presents.

NEW BELTS AND BUCKLES.
FANCY BELTS, in the NEWEST COLOURS and Materials, 2/, 2/6, 2/11, 3/6, 3/11, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6, 7/6, to 21/.
ENAMEL BELT CLASPS,
1/6½, 1/11½, 2/11, 3/11, to 25/.
OXIDISED, GILT, AND SILVER CLASPS,
1/, 1/3½, 1/6, 1/11, 2/6, 2/11.

HOLIDAY ATTIRE.
You cannot do better than purchase all you want FOR THE HOLIDAYS at the SMART BLOCK CORNER STORE, where
THE SMARTEST GOODS ARE SOLD AT THE LOWEST PRICES.
THE LATEST SHAPES IN SHOES,
SMART COSTUMES AND SKIRTS, and DAINTY BLOUSES and MILLINERY.
CARRIAGE PAID ON DRAPERY OR SHOES to any part of New South Wales.
W. T. WATERS & CO., LTD.,
THE LEADERS OF FASHION,
KING AND GEORGE STREETS, SYDNEY.

LOWE'S Crash Conway Suits 4s 11d, Crash Tunics 2s 11d, Tweed Knickers 2s 6½d. George and Oxford sts.

TO LET.

PLAINLY furn. House, 5 rms., bathrm., etc., 25s wk., 5 mins. ferry. 23 Ben Boyd-rd, N.B.

PL. fur. Cott., 4 rms., b., k., etc., for 1 m., 35s wk., or 3 m., 30s, or Rms., Jan. 1. C.A.E., P.O., Bowral.

RESIDENTIAL and Dental Chambers, every convenience, and new. 179 Elizabeth-st, Hyde Park.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

SHOP and DWELLING, Market-st, near Park, rent 45s. Bonus. H. B. F., Herald, King-st.

TO Let, Hanover, 55 Ross st, Forest Lodge, 7 rooms, kit., laundry, garden, etc., £1.

TO LET, 58 Dowling-st, Woo'loo.—4 rooms, kit., stove, copper, all necess. imp., 11s.

TO LET, Enfield, near Strathfield.—HOLMFIRTH, comfortable Family Home, contg. 8 large rooms, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, cloak-room, cellar, laundry, wide verandah and balcony on three sides, all conveniences, 2 acres ground, tennis lawn, stables, coachhouse and man's-room. Low rent to good tenant for term. Apply C. GERARD PHILLIPS,
62 Pitt-street, city.

HOTELS.

AT GROSVENOR HOTEL, CHURCH-HILL, SYDNEY. —Cool, salubrious, high position, every modern convenience, cosy and comfortable. Public rooms. Excellent cuisine and service. Moderate tariff. Special rates by month or season.
C. W. M. CHATEAU,
Tels., 860, 300. Proprietor.

FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL, MELBOURNE, LARGEST HOTEL IN AUSTRALASIA.
Two Dining Rooms and Cafe.
Write for Tariff Card.

HOBART.—An Experienced Traveller says:—"For solid comfort and excellent table, commend me to CARLTON CLUB HOTEL, Hobart." Terms: 52s 6d to 63s per week. Avoid disappointment, and book early.

MT. VICTORIA.—Grand Hotel, strictly private Hotel, nice grounds, suit. for families, and those requiring perfect rest, terms two guineas weekly, half for children to 14 years, 7s day for head of family for week-ends, good service trains, coaches, all sights. City office, 108 Pitt-st, or Manager, Grand Hotel, Mt. Vict.

NEW-TREASURY HOTEL, Spring-street, Melbourne. Finest position; hot, cold baths, electric light. Reasonable terms.
SHEEHAN, Proprietor.

SPLENDID Accommodation for vis. Board or Rooms only, low tariff, 4 minutes from railway station. Austral Hotel, cr. Bourke and Foveaux streets, Surry Hills. R. LASCELLES, Proprietor.

COUNTRY RESORTS.

A GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ADVICE.
The Earl of Dudley, speaking at Sandringham, Melbourne, said—that whilst yachting was a fine healthy sport, fishing was more important. As residents of a seaboard town they should do all they possibly could to encourage fishing and seagoing.
EASTWAYS are the people to set you up in FISHING TACKLE.
You can't go wrong by coming to us.
EASTWAY BROTHERS, GEORGE-STREET.

AT WENTWORTH FALLS.—THE PINES. Accommodation for visitors. Mrs. Riley.

BALMORAL, Woonona, nr. Bulli.—Mrs. Nicholls. Vacancy for visitors. Terms from £1 1s.

BUNGALOW.—For Xmas. Farm, poultry, piano, bath, milk, £1 1s. Mrs. Adams.

BLUE MTS.—Accommodation for Visitors, spacious grounds, driving, dairy, orchard, moderate terms. To Holiday, Herald Office.

HAZELBROOK, opposite station.—Furnished Cottage, 4 bedrooms, £8 month. Hinton, 94 Pitt-st.

HOBART.—Small party rec. as Paying Guests, gent.'s fam., best pos. Oberon, Box 5, G.P.O., Hobart.

KATOOMBA, Sunbury, Lovel-st, on rd. swim. baths, 4 min. walk stn., Accom., 25s. Mrs. Macpherson.

KATOOMBA.—F.-c. Accom., large, airy, comf. rms., good table, 25s week, 5s day. Mrs. Watt, Glenesk.

KATOOMBA.—Vacancies, Twickenham Villa, 3 min. from Station, own cows. Mrs. Spark.

KATOOMBA, Malda Vale.—First-class Accom. for Xmas. Tel., 66 K. Misses Neild and Fletcher.

KATOOMBA.—Tenora, open for season, newington, lg. grounds, 25s week, 5s day. Mrs. Mac.

KATOOMBA.—Marsden, Kat'ba-st, Dr. Shand's late res., 1st-cl. accom., 25s wk., 5s day. Mrs. Sinclair.

KATOOMBA, Essendene.—Vac. L., airy rms., spac. grounds, gd. table, 25s wk., 5s day. Mrs. Craig.

LEURA, near station.—Furnished Cottage, all conv., piano, gas. T. Quinn, 76A Pitt-st. Tel., 2101 Cent.

LEURA.—To Let, clean furnished COTTAGES. J. F. Ryan, Mogalong-st.

THIRROUL.—Mrs. A. E. Burbank has taken over Haseldene, the most comfortable Boarding-house, at Thirroul.

WOY WOY.—Furn. Cott., 5 rms., lin., ctlery, bath, boat, private jetty. Atkins, 41 Hunter-st.

THREE ladies req. Board and Residence in Wollong'g, at once (3 wks.), mod. K., P.O., Wollongong.

SMART AND INEXPENSIVE
HOLIDAY ATTIRE,
READY TO WEAR,
AT
REUBEN BRASCH'S.

CAMBRIC SHIRT BLOUSES.
Smart, new designs, tucked and pin-tucked, 1/11½, 2/4½, 2/11½, 3/6, 3/11, 4/6, 4/11.

WHITE SHIRTS AND TRIMMED MUSLIN BLOUSES,
IN LAWN, INDIA LINEN, AND ORGANDI MUSLIN, 2/11½, 3/6, 3/11, 4/6, 4/11.
IN LAWN, INDIA LINEN, AND ORGANDI MUSLIN, NICELY TRIMMED,
2/11½, 3/6, 3/11, 4/11, 5/6, 6/6, 7/11, 10/11, to 16/11.
IN ALL-OVER EMBROIDERY, 15/11, 16/11, 17/11, 18/6.
IN ALL-OVER LACE, WHITE or PARIS,
23/6, 25/6, 28/6, 30/, 42/.
IN EMBROIDERED MUSLIN, 5/3, 6/6, 7/11.

JAP. SILK SHIRTS,
Also,
TRIMMED BLOUSES.
Cream, 6/11, 7/11, 8/11, 10/11, to 22/6.
Navy, 7/11, 8/11, 9/11, 10/9, 13/11, 15/11.
Black, 7/11, 9/11, 11/11, 14/6, 17/6, to 22/6.
Also in
Black Glace and Chiffon Taffeta, 16/11, 19/11, 25/6, 27/6.

CAMBRIC COSTUMES.
SHIRT BLOUSE, FULL SKIRT WITH TUCKS, in all the Latest Designs,
6/11, 7/11, 8/11, 10/11, 12/6.
PINAFORE STYLE, 10/9, 12/9.
MUSLIN COSTUMES,
WHITE LAWN, TRIMMED EMBROIDERY INSERTION, 8/11, 9/11, 10/11, to 25/.

WHITE MUSLIN SKIRTS.
WHITE MUSLIN, CUT FULL FROM WAIST, with TUCKS and PIN TUCKS, 3/11, 4/11, 5/6, 5/11, 6/11, 8/6.
WHITE LAWN or ORGANDI MUSLIN, CUT FULL FROM WAIST, with TUCKS and PIN TUCKS, TRIMMED WIDE MUSLIN INSERTION, 3/11, 5/6, 6/6, 7/11, 8/6, 9/11, 10/6, 11/9.
SIMILAR STYLES, MORE TRIMMED, VALENCIENNES and BEADING, 13/6, 13/11.
JAP. SILK SKIRTS, with TUCKS and PIN TUCKS, in BLACK, NAVY, or CREAM, 22/11, 25/9, 28/6.

TAILOR-MADE SKIRTS.
7-GORE, in GREY TWEED, 8/6; in BLACK or NAVY SICILIAN, 7/11, 8/11, 10/11.
In CREAM or NAVY PANAMA, 8/6, 9/6.
9-GORE, in SICILIAN, BLACK, NAVY, and CREAM, 12/11.
SUNRAY PLEATED SKIRT, in Sicilian, Black, or Cream, 16/11, 18/11, 22/11; in Navy, Green, Brown, Wine, 18/11, 22/11; Panama, Black, Navy, or Cream, 18/11; in Tartan, or Black and White Checks, 18/11, 22/9, 23/11, 26/9.
KNIFE-PLEATED SKIRT, in SICILIAN, BLACK, or CREAM, 13/11, 16/11; in PANAMA, NAVY, or CREAM, 15/6.
PLEATED SKIRTS, in SICILIAN and PANAMA, 12/11, 13/11, 15/11, to 22/6.
SIZES STOCKED.
LENGTHS: 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 inch.
WAIST: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34 inch.
REUBEN BRASCH,
HYDE PARK CORNER, OXFORD-STREET.
XMAS EVE: OPEN TILL 10 P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

LOWE'S Clothes for boys and men sold at 2 big stores, George and Oxford sts. Either store will do.

ALL DRAPERS
INVITE EVERY VISITOR
To Sydney for the Christmas Holidays, to call and inspect the latest models of the famous French Corsets.
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
These are THE CORSETS that have led the Corset Fashions of the World for OVER Twenty Years, and to-day are supreme in the estimation of the shrewdest and smartest women.
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
are constructed from carefully selected materials—are constructed, designed, and modelled by the foremost of French Corsetieres into an almost unlimited range of shapes and styles to meet the varying conditions incidental to every type of figure.
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
are so beautifully and delicately made that EVERY PAIR possesses a perfect shape for EVERY FIGURE. They are stronger, yet lighter than any other make of Corset; they are cooler; they give the wearer absolute freedom of movement; are very comfortable, and impart an exquisite contour to the figure.
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
"P.D." CORSETS "P.D."
Enhance the personality of the wearer, emphasising your smartness and stylishness, giving your carriage that graceful character which is so much admired.
JUST ASK US TO SHOW THEM.

LINEN Handkerchiefs direct from Ireland at Wholesale Prices. The Irish Linen House, 180 Pitt-st.

LOWE'S Holiday Suits in Crash for men, 10s 6d and 14s 11d; White Drill Trous., 2s 11d, 3s 6d. George-st.

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ASTOUNDING Bargains in every description of NOVELTIES, at 50 Oxford-st, Waverley.

APARTMENTS, BOARD, RESIDENCE.

A.A.—WYNYARD HALL, nr. G.P.O., 50 Carrington-st, Wynyard-square. Excellent accom. visitors, mod.

A.—AT MELROSE, 5 Woolcott-st, Darlinghurst. Large Double ROOM, use of kitchen.

A BALCONY ROOM to Let, no children. 184 Glenmore-rd.

A.—HILLSIDE, 19 Lavender-st, Lavender Bay.—Vacancies, 3 minutes ferry and baths.

A LARGE, well furnished Double ROOM. 175 Bourke-st, 5 doors off William-st.

A LARGE Front Bed-sitting Room, ground floor, suit M.C. or friends. 121 Victoria-st, D'hurst.

A NICELY Furnished BEDROOM, suit married couple; also single Rooms. 339 Pitt-st, city.

AT 70 Glenmore-rd, Padd.—Large well-furnished Front Bedroom, dining-room, and kit., 11s; Single, 5s.

AT WILGA, 69 Darlinghurst-rd.—Double balcony and single Rooms vacant, excel. table. Miss Nielson.

AT GLENHOLM, 146 Phillip-st.—Superior Board and Residence. Telephone, 410 City.

AT 11 Oatley-rd, Paddington, opp. P.O.—Lge. furn. Room, suit M.C. or friends; also Single, mod.

AT 240 Forbes-st, D'hurst.—Large Double and Single Rooms vacant, breakfast if required.

AT CHISLEHURST, 34 Bayswater-rd, Darlinghurst.—Double and Single ROOMS vacant. Tel., 129 Wm.-st.

A VACANCY for 1 Gent., 5s, board opt., piano, key. 180 Forbes-st, 2 doors below William-st.

ABBOTSFORD,
76 ALBERTO-TERRACE,
DARLINGHURST-ROAD.
Bd. Establishment.

ALPINE HOUSE, 204-6-8 Victoria-st, Darlinghurst.—Newly built and constructed for conv. of boarders, 60 bedr., front, dble., single, bal. and smoke draw.-r.; Accommodation. Madame Desjardins. T., 72 Wm.-st.

ARLINGTON and ARCADIA, 207 and 207½ Victoria-street, Darlinghurst.—Vacancies. Superior B. and Res., 1d tram, conv. to city, good cuisine, hot baths, smoke and card rooms. Tel., 542 William-street.

AT NEUTRAL BAY.—WALLARINGA MANSION. High-class Residential Establishment, tennis, billiards, swimming, and boating. Accommodation. Mrs. MULVEY.

ADELAIDE HOTEL
(First-class Residential),
Moore Park-road, Sydney.
Beautifully situated in healthiest part of city, favourite resort of country visitors. Moderate tariff. Cuisine a speciality. Tel., 137 Padd.

BAL. Room, furnished or unfurnished, for single men, 'bus at door. 58 Broughton-st, Glebe.

BONDI.—Half well-furn. Cottage to Let, 21s. Reay, 20 Woodstock-st, Bondi.

BONDI BEACH.—La Mascotte, Thomas-st, opposite Aquarium Hotel, newly furnished apartments.

BOARD RECOMMENDED, FURNISHED and UNFURNISHED FLATS, ROOMS; FURNISHED HOUSES MANLY £2 2s, NEUTRAL BAY £2 2s, D'HURST 35s. Tel., 4297. Mrs. SEYMOUR, 156 King-street.

BELMONT HOUSE,
55 WALKER-STREET,
LAVENDER BAY.
Well-furnished Rooms, excellent cuisine and attendance, hot and cold baths. Tel., 264 N.S. Terms moderate. Mrs. W. B. KING.

COMFORTABLE Board and Residence, suit country visitors. 74 City-rd, city, opp. University Park.

COMF. Front Room, downstairs, close 1d tram, mod. 292 Victoria-st, Darlinghurst. Bath, key.

COOGEE.—Scarborough, B. and R., large priv. grnds., near tram and beach. Tel., 86 Randwick.

JOYLAND
AT
MRS. M'CATHIE'S, LTD.,
OPEN TILL 10 TO-NIGHT.
BRING THE YOUNGSTERS IN AND LET THEM TRY THEIR LUCK IN
MRS. M'CATHIE'S
FAMOUS PENNY DIP.
'TIS THE SIMPLEST WAY OF SOLVING THE FATHER XMAS PROBLEM.
FOR IN OUR BIG, BRIGHT, AND BUSY
TOY DEPARTMENT
you'll be bound to meet with inspiration amongst such a Magnificent Showing of Up-to-date TOY BOOKS, GAMES, ETC.
AND, AS USUAL,
OUR PRICES ARE THE LOWEST IN SYDNEY.
VISIT THE BRILLIANT XMAS SHOW AT
MRS. M'CATHIE'S
TO-DAY.
'Twill be a REAL GALA DAY,
PUTTING ALL OTHER SHOWS
QUITE IN THE SHADE.
comprising, as it does,
A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF
CHARMING GOODS,
SUITABLE FOR XMAS PRESENTS.
WHILE WAITING AND DEBATING,
JUST POP IN.
It will not take you long to see exactly the article you had in your mind's eye, and the price will enable the short purse to do what the
LONG PURSE DOES ELSEWHERE.

GLOVES FOR XMAS PRESENTS.
Elbow Length LISLE GLOVES, Black, White, Beaver, Fawn, and Pastelle, self stitchings, 1/6½, 1/11½, 2/6, 3/6.
Over Elbow Length LISLE, White, Black, Beaver, Pastelle, Grey, and Biscuit, self stitchings, 2/11½, 3/6.
LACE LISLE MITTS, Black, White, and Cream, 1/ and 1/3.
3-button REAL KID GLOVES, self and black stitchings, Black, White, Beaver, Pastelle, Brown, and Grey, 2/11½.
Elbow Length GLACE KID GLOVES, White only, 4/11.
Elbow Length GLACE KID, White, Black, Beaver, Pastelle, and Fawn, 8/6.

BELTS FOR XMAS.
WHITE WASHING BELTS, 6½d, 8½d, 1/0½, 1/3½, 1/6½.
FANCY ORIENTAL BELTS, 6½d, 10½d, 1/3½, 1/11½, 2/6.
WHITE KID BELTS, 1/0½, 1/4½, 1/6½, 2/3½, 3/11.
SILVER TINSEL BELTS, 1/0½, 1/6½.

FANCY GOODS
SUITABLE FOR XMAS PRESENTS.
NOTHING EXPENSIVE.
EVERYTHING ARTISTIC AND BEAUTIFUL.
PEGGY BAGS, all colours, 1/6½, 2/11½, 3/11, 4/11, 5/6, 6/11, 7/11, to 25/6.
SPECIAL TABLE OF XMAS GIFTS, all 1/.
PHOTO FRAMES, 4½d, 8½d, 1/3½, 1/6½, 1/9½, 1/11½, 2/11.
GLASS DISHES, 2½d, 4½d, 6½d, 8½d, 1/0½.
FANCY BOTTLE PERFUME, 3½d, 6½d, 1/0½; in box, 1/6½, 1/11½, 2/11, 3/11, 4/11.

SPECIAL PURCHASE.
A couple of Lines bought at a big discount, very suitable for Xmas Presents.
LOT 1.
High-class Bags, in new peggy shapes, worth 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/6, 10/6, 12/11, 15/6, 27/6.
Going at 3/6, 4/6, 4/11, 5/11, 7/6, 9/11, 12/6, 22/6.
LOT 2.
HANDSOME NECKWEAR.
Having made a very fortunate purchase of Lace Neckwear, Collarettes, etc, we are going to clear the lot out at just half their value as a Xmas Bargain.
Remember, they are all the very newest styles, and the quality the best money can buy.
Special Prices, 2/6, 2/11, 3/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/6.
JOYLAND.
FOR THE LITTLE TOTS,
AND THE BIGGEST, BRIGHTEST, AND BEST OF ALL XMAS SHOWS
AT
MRS. M'CATHIE'S, LTD.,
THE BUSIEST SHOP IN SYDNEY,
197, 199, AND 201 PITT-STREET.

GREER'S HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA
(CLOUDY).
TO REMOVE GREASE FROM CLOTHING, etc.—Saturate the Soiled part with this Ammonia, then sponge or brush with cold water, and if dirt or grease cannot be removed in this way nothing else need be tried. FOR CLEANING PAINTED WOODWORK, WINDOWS, OILCLOTHS, etc.:—Use two tablespoonfuls of this Ammonia in a pail of water, and NO SOAP IS NEEDED. FOR BRUSHES and COMBS:—A tablespoonful in a pint of water will remove all grease and dirt. TO CLEAN JEWELLERY, DIAMONDS, etc.:—Use a teaspoonful in cup of water. WOOLLENS, BLANKETS, FLANNELS, etc.:—Soak for a few minutes in a pail of water containing one tablespoonful of this Ammonia, and very little Soap. Rub slightly, and they will become clean WITHOUT shrinking.
ALL GROCERS and STOREKEEPERS.

G. BRIDGES has opened up Xmas Shipments of Irish Linen Handkerchiefs. Linen Shop, 180 Pitt-st.

LOWE'S Popular Panama 15s, Straw Boaters 3s 6d; Lounge Hats 3s 11d. George and Oxford sts.

APARTMENTS, BOARD, RESIDENCE.

CARLTON MANSIONS.
This Beautiful Residence stands within spacious grounds, hand. furn., d. and s. bal. rooms, billiards, smoke, music room, tennis court, position and house unequalled, 12 min. cnty; tram stops gates, corner Wigram and Glebe roads, Glebe Point. Terms mod.

DARLINGHURST.—Large Unfurn. Rooms, balcony, reasonable single or flat. 35 Bayswater-rd.

DARLINGHURST.—Double and Single ROOMS, excellent table, moderate. Tanga, 213 Victoria-st.

D'HURST, 230 Victoria-st, opp. St. John's.—Lge. Bal. Room, well furn., no chil., 2 m. 1d tram, ev. conv.

D'HURST.—ELTON, 2 Woolcott-st, late Upper William-st. Bal., other Rooms, very mod., close city.

D'HURST.—Large Front Room, suit 2 gentn., perfectly clean, 5s each. Yanko, 174 Victoria-st.

D'HURST.—At 211 William-st, 3 doors from P.O., Furnished ROOMS vacant.

D'HURST.—MASCOTTE, 1 Bayswater-rd, top Wm.-st. Fur. single Rooms, breakfast optional.

DARLINGHURST, 15 Craigend-street, min. 1d tram.—English Widow Lady offers well-furn. SMALL FLAT or ROOMS, brd. opt. Tel., 325 Wm.-st.
(Not a boarding-house.)

FUR. ROOMS, 10s, 12s 6d, use kit., linen, cut., piano, g. pos. Campbell, Fernside, Waratah-st, Kat'mba.

GLEBE, 109 Derwent-st.—Sup. furn. Room, with baft. or without, priv. fam., every conv., private.

GLENMORE-RD (91), Padd.—Clean furn. balc. Room, 10s 6d; also single, 5s, nice loc., 1d sect., ev. con.

KIRRIBILLI POINT,
SUTHERLAND,
OPP. ADMIRALTY HOUSE.
Tel., 861 N.S.

LARGE furnished Balcony and Back Room, near Centennial Park. 7 Jersey-rd, Woollahra.

MACLEAY-STREET, POTTS POINT.
CHATSWORTH.
HIGH-CLASS BOARD AND RESIDENCE.
The most charming view of the Harbour, with water frontage, Terraced Gardens, private Swimming Bath, Tennis, Boating from landing stage. Every comfort and convenience. Post Office, 15 min.
Mrs. BARFIELD-SINCLAIR wishes it understood she has no interests in other boarding establishments in Sydney. Telephone, Wm.-st. 357.

NICE private Home, 2 gentn, or M.C., harbour view. 140 Glenmore-rd, Paddington.

NICELY Furn. Balcony Room, suit 1 gent., 5s wk; latchkey. 606 Harris-st, nr. the College.

RESIDENTIAL, 110 Phillip-st.—Furn. Single, Dble. Rooms, Bal. Room, near opp. German Club.

SINGLE and Double ROOMS to LET, accommodate country visitors. 109 Albion-st, Surry Hills.

SUP. BOARD and RES.—The Continental Cafe, opp. the breakers. Tel., 180 Manly.

SUPERIOR Double and Single Rooms vacant, board optional. Greyston, 367 Glebe Pt.-rd, Glebe Pt.

TO Let, Furn. Room, suit married couple or bus. people. 83 Mitchell-st, Glebe.

TO LET, well-furn. Rooms, every conv., mod., in city, quiet. 15 Crown-st, Lower Domain.

TO LET, well furnished Room, suit 2 or 3 friends. 11 London-st, Enmore.

THOSE requiring BOARD and RESIDENCE, FLATS, ROOMS, FURN. HOUSES, etc, apply to JENKINSON and LOVEGROVE, Residential Agency, Tel., 538 City. 107 Pitt-street.

TO THOSE requiring Board and Residence, Rooms, Fur. Houses, etc.,
Apply Mrs. PETERS' AGENCY, top Hunter-street. Country Visitors especially catered for. No fee.

VACANT, at 3 Woolcott-st, D'hurst, Double Rooms, suit M.C. or friends, 1d section stops at door.

VICTORIA-ST (111), Potts Point, D'hurst.—Superior Board and Residence, terms moderate.

WELL furn. Room, usag. har. view, own entr., 5 mins. ferry, priv. fam. 133 Carabella-st, Milson's P.

WARATAH, BAYSWATER-ROAD, DARLINGHURST, situated in spacious grounds, high-class RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT.
Excellent cuisine, billiards, tennis, smoke-room.
Mrs. P. O'CONNELL,
late of Brisbane.

XMAS HOLIDAYS.—Waruda, Waruda-street, Kirribilli (facing the Circular Quay, next new Beulah Flats), open harbour position. Superior BOARD and RESIDENCE. T., 1092 N.S.

A SYD. Youth Exch. Holid., boy or girl, ctry., farm, station. Particulars, Student, P.O., Enmore.

WANTED, B. and R., new arrival, gent., sup. table, s. room, D'hurst, mod. Permanent, Herald Branch.

WANTED, large Balcony and Single Rooms, near city, board op. stab., fr. 30th. Permanent, Hrld.

WANTED, near Bondi, Board, Residence, lady and dtr., few weeks January. 51 Flood-st, Bondi.

WANTED, at seaside, Bed-Sitting Room, lady, 3 childn., use kit. Borela, Adolphus-st, Balmain.

WANTED, Board and Res. Drummoyne or Abbotsford. E. M., 123 Regent-st, city.

WANTED, good Lady to Board Boy, 4 years, good money. F. B., Newtown Post-office.

WIDOW, with little Girl, wants unfur. front downstairs Room, D'lton or Newt. Morpeth, Herald.

WHEN WE WERE BOYS
WE BOUGHT OUR TOYS
AT FOY'S.
NOW WE ARE MEN,
WE GO AGAIN,
AND TAKE OUR BOYS
TO BUY THEIR TOYS
AT GOOD OLD FOY'S.
OPEN TILL 10 O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT.
CLOSED TO-MORROW (XMAS DAY).
CLOSED SATURDAY (BOXING DAY).
OPEN AS USUAL MONDAY.

RILEY'S. RILEY'S. RILEY'S. RILEY'S. RILEY'S.
SKIRTS & BLOUSES.
WE HAVE PURCHASED 500 SAMPLES AT A BIG DISCOUNT.
THESE ARE ALL TO BE CLEARED
AT FACTORY PRICES.
BLACK VOILE SKIRTS, 9/11; Worth 14/9.
BLACK VOILE SKIRTS, 12/9; Worth 16/9.
JAP. SILK BLOUSES, 5/11; Worth 8/11.
JAP. SILK BLOUSES, 10/9; Worth 15/9.
RILEY BROTHERS,
GEORGE AND BATHURST STREETS,
SYDNEY.
OPEN TILL 10 O'C. TO-NIGHT.

QUEEN Victoria Farthings given with Boys' Suits at Lowe's Big Stores, George, Oxford sts. Come early.

GRANUMA
GRANUMA.
Christmas too often provides the opportunity of eating too much solid food, and this impairs the health, and is not worth while, for the small pleasure it gives. The stimulating effects of a suitable breakfast are enhanced by using "GRANUMA" for your porridge. For it is not only eminently delicious, but eminently wholesome, delicate, and digestible, and will add vigour and vitality for the day's work or play.
ALL GROCERS AND STOREKEEPERS.

PRETTY Needlework, Oriental Novelties, Irish Fancy Linens, Dainty Cambrics. G. Bridges, 180 Pitt-st.

LOWE'S Men's 2-piece Flannel Suits 21s, Natural Crash Trousers 3s 11d, 4s 11d. George and Oxford sts.

POULTRY, DOGS, ETC.

FOWLS and Ducks wanted, any quantity, for spot cash. Carts sent daily. Short, 7 Carlisle-st, Lhrdt.

FOR SALE, Peacock and 2 Hens, young birds, suit. present, bargain, £3 10s. Florp, Pitt-Bathurst sts.

FOX TERRIERS, high-class pups, by Eurangi Jack. 3 Short-st, Woollahra.

RICKARD'S Return Tickets, Cronulla, for Boxing Day. Train, 'bus, refresh., 2s, obtainable 84B Pitt-st.

YOU'LL have a Happy Xmas if you get your footwear at Joe Gardiner's. It will save you money.

PROFESSIONS, TRADES, ETC.

(For Advertisements under this heading see Page 3.)

SITUATIONS WANTED.

A FIRST-CL. Gardener or Hut Cook Disengaged, exc. refs. Urgent, 19 Brisbane-st, Sydney.

A YOUNG Lady would like Position as Waitress at mtns. or seaside, references. N.M., 54 Mullens-st.

BARMAID, experienced, young, wants position, good hotel, city. 741, Herald.

BRIGHT intell. young Lady wants Position, Companion, town or country. A. M. F., Oxf.-st P.O.

BY mid.-aged Woman as an Assistant for counter, rms., etc., dur. holidays. Genuine, 46 Shepherd-st.

BY good plain Laundress or Housemaid L'dress, gd. refs. Kitty, 171 Bourke-st, Darlinghurst.

GOV., Tutors, Butlers, Waiters, Cooks, M. C.'s, Gardeners, Grooms, B. Riders. 110 Bathurst-st.

RESP. yng. Woman, walking child, seeks Situation as Housekeeper, light General. J.J., P.O., Ult.

TEN POUNDS offered for Caretaker's job to bring in £1 10s weekly. F., Newcastle Branch S.M.H.

WTD., Sit. as Help in good home, sewing if required, N.S. preferred. J. K., Herald Office.

WANTED, Work, gard., milk, groom, no ref., half-wage, trial, £1. Handy, 19 Brisbane-st, S.H.

WOMAN Disengaged, day work, Xmas and Boxing Days. Apply 57 Ridge-st.

YOUNG Man, resp. appearance, like Position, garden work, etc., refs., mod. wages. 740, Herald Office.

SERVANTS WANTED.

AT SIMMONDS' AGENCY, 188 Castlereagh-street.—HOTEL COOKS, 35s, 30s; Gardener, Groom, 20s, BARMAN, 30s, keep, city hotel, call early. STATION GROOM, milk, kill, 20s, good place.

A.—BOOTS and Porter, Bathurst, 12s, tips; Kitchenman, mtns., 20s; 20 W'tresses. Israel's, 27 Eliz.-st.

A DINNER Waitress only, 10s, sub. hotel; Housekpr., htl., 20s; Pty.'man, 20s. Walker's, Crgh.-st.

A HOUSEMAN, assist waiting, refs. req. 189 Macquarie-st.

A NURSEGIRL, to go to seaside. Borela, Adolphus-st, Balmain.

AT SIMPSON BROS.', 76 Hunter-street. Tel., 3381. FIVE MEN to go with horses to Japan, £2 week and keep, return fare paid; interview Tuesday, 10 o'cl.; HOTEL PORTER, 12s 6d, good tips, intew. 11; YOUTH, ride and drive well, 15s; Companion and Help, servt. kept, 12s; Waitress, mtns., 12s, fare paid; Gen., 2s.

BARMAID, country, 20s; 2 Waitresses, 14s; H'maids, 12s. Johnston, 112 Castlereagh-st.

CAMP Cook, £2, Warren; Hut Cook and Baker, 30s, at once, Scone; M. Couple, £75, garden and milk, wife l'dress; £70, farm hand, wife cook and h'keep (no obj. to a child), intv. 10; Milkman, 15s; Waitress, 15s, Nyngan; 15s, Singleton; Cook, 25s, Temora; 15s, Scone; 20s, Tingha; Cook-L'dresses, 22s 6d, 20s, and 18s, stns.; H. P. Md., 15s, stn., S. 1.; Housemaids, 15s and 10s. 110 Bathurst-street.

EXP. Waitresses, good wages, no Sunday work, permanent position. Her Majesty's Cafe, Pitt-st.

EXPERIENCED Waiter, permanent. Victoria Coffee Palace, 208 Pitt-st.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, wages 15s. Austral Hotel, Bourke and Foveaux sts, Surry Hills.

KITCHENMAN, hotel, ctry., 20s; Porter, Boots, 20s; Waitresses, 15s, worth 40s. Israel's, 27 Elizabeth-st.

MARRIED Cs., bachs., £80, child not obj., man useful, wife h'keep, immed.; man cook, wife laund., £95, fares both ways, inter. 11; Housekeepers, 20s, bachs.; 4 Maids, N.Z., 15s to 20s; others. Layard, 25 Elizabeth-st.

PANTRYMAID, also Waitress. Victoria Coffee Palace, 208 Pitt-st.

RUNNER wanted, Board and Res. given, liberal terms. Between 10 and 11, 498 George-st, city.

SIMPSON'S Agency.—Kit'man, 12s; Cooks, 15s; Housemaids, 12s; Gens., 16s, 14s, 12s, 10s. 77 Eliz.-st.

WAITRESSES, leading hotels, Katoomba, Bathurst, Mt. Victoria, 12s, 15s, worth 40s. Israel, 27 Eliz.-st.

WTD., for Mosman, young Girl or Lady Help, mind child aftns., gd. wgs. Aberdare, Muston-st, Mosman.

WANTED, GIRL (14), from 8 to 11, light work. 177 William-st, Darlinghurst.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

OPEN RIGHT UP TILL TEN O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th,
XMAS EVE,
at
PITT-STREET
HORDERN'S.
DON'T MISS THE
"ARABIAN NIGHTS" DISPLAY
for
CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS
at
"SANTA CLAUS" FAIRYLAND HEADQUARTERS.
THE WHOLE OF OUR ESTABLISHMENT, from PITT-STREET to GEORGE-STREET, BRILLIANTLY LIGHTED
RIGHT UP TILL TEN O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT.
(THE ONLY NIGHT IN THE YEAR WE KEEP OPEN.)
CLOSED TO-MORROW, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25th (XMAS DAY).
CLOSED ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th (BOXING DAY).
PITT-STREET TO-NIGHT
should certainly be included in your itinerary.
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SYDNEY'S LEADERS OF FASHION,
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and 422 GEORGE-STREET,
SYDNEY.

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THE SILK AND NOVELTY STORE IN THE CITY.
HUNDREDS OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS TO SELECT FROM.
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OUR STOCKS ARE ENTIRELY NEW.
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WE KEEP OPEN TILL 10 P.M.
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1/, 1/3, 1/6, AND 1/9 PER LB.
The superb excellence of these specially-selected Teas makes them especially desirable for families.
You should try the blend at 1/3 per lb.
ALL GROCERS AND STOREKEEPERS.

LADIES' Irish Linen Handkerchiefs fr. 4½d; Gents.'s do., fr. 8½d each. George Bridges, 180 Pitt-st.

LOWE'S Stores will be open till 10 to-night. Come early if you can. George and Oxford sts.

SERVANTS WANTED.

WANTED, young MAN, milk and deliver, 22s 6d. R. Gow, French-rd, Willoughby.

WANTED, for Metropolitan Hotel, HOUSEMAIDS; must have references.

WANTED, respectable Woman, do few days' work. Apply early, Crystal Palace Hotel, opp. railway.

WANTED, good Kitchenman, good wages. Apply early, Crystal Palace Hotel, opp. railway.

WANTED, good Cook, male or female, good wages. Apply early, Crystal Palace Hotel, opp. railway.

WANTED, NIGHT PORTER, must be strictly sober, ref. req. Apply 742, Herald Office.

WANTED, experienced WAITRESS, to start at once. Constant, 19 Park-st.

WANTED, LIGHT GENERAL, small family. Eumea, Flood-st, Bondi.

WANTED, MIDDAY WAITER and useful GIRL. Apply early, 24 Market-st, city.

WANTED, Useful Man, can mark billiards, wages 10s, B. and Res. A. Turner, 60 Elizabeth-st, city.

WANTED, WAITERS. Apply 233 Pitt-st, city.

WANTED, Useful MAN. Apply early, Star Hotel, Sussex and Goulburn sts.

WANTED, Waitresses, also Pantrymaid. Apply Hoelsken's Strand Cafe.

WANTED, a MAN, general useful. Apply early, Palace Hotel, Haymarket.

WANTED, young Man, milk and deliver. R. Harvey, Wallace-st, Waverley.

WANTED, Light GENERAL, 3 adults. Rob Roy Hotel, Adolphus-st, Balmain.

WANTED, General Useful; also a good Lunch Man. Apply Brighton Hotel, Oxford-st.

WANTED, at once, Useful Housemaid, Waitress, and K'man, 9 to 10, 1-8 Darlinghurst-rd, D'hurst.

WANTED, a smart GIRL. Apply before 10 a.m., 20 Queen-st, Woollahra.

WANTED, a good LAUNDRESS, after 2, 166 Stanley-st, city.

WANTED, a Girl or Man as Useful. Apply 58 William-st, Darlinghurst, after 9 a.m.

WANTED, HOUSEMAID, at once. Oxford Coffee Palace, 183 Riley-st, Surry Hills.

WANTED, COOK. Will Joe please call. Oxford Coffee Palace, 183 Riley-st, Surry Hills.

WANTED, at once, GENERAL. Apply Moira, 148 Flinders-st, Moore Park.

WANTED, at once, HOUSEBOY. Apply University Club, 15 Castlereagh-st.

WANTED, a tidy GIRL, assist light duties. Apply 21 George-st, Redfern.

WANTED, HOUSEMAID, at once. Wynyard Hotel, Clarence-street.

WANTED, resp. Girl as GENERAL. After 9, Observer Hotel, 69 George-st North.

WANTED, YARDMAN, good milker. P. J. Monaghan, Dairy, Beresford-rd, Homebush.

WANTED, a good WAITRESS. Barley Mow Hotel, Park-st.

WANTED, WASHERS, FOLDERS, and HANGERS OUT, experience not necessary, constant work.
SYDNEY STEAM LAUNDRY,
Crown and Stanley streets.

WANTED, LADY HELP or General, for small cottage at Cronulla, about January 6th, small family. Clumba, Military-road and Princes-st, Mosman.

WANTED for the Dubbo Mechanics' Institute, a MARRIED COUPLE, to undertake the duties of Caretaker and Supervision of Billiard-room. Quarters provided. Apply, stating salary required, to the undersigned, from whom any further information can be obtained. Secretary, Dubbo.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD,
ONE PENNY PER COPY.
In Advance Post Paid, 8s per Quarter.

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ADVERTISEMENTS are classified as far as possible for the convenience of readers; BUT NO CLASSIFICATION CAN BE MADE UNLESS THE OBJECT OF THE ADVERTISEMENT IS DISTINCTLY STATED IN THE ADVERTISEMENT ITSELF, OR ON THE MS. No guarantee is given that advertisements shall appear under any special heading.
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Births, Deaths, and Marriages, 3s each insertion. This includes publication in the Sydney Mail.
Notices of BIRTHS and DEATHS cannot be inserted in this journal unless endorsed with the name and address of the person by whom they are sent.
Notices of MARRIAGES cannot be inserted unless certified as correct by the officiating Minister or Registrar.
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The Pillar Box at Sydney Railway Station for Receipt of Advertisements and Communications is cleared every week day at 8.30, 9.30, and 10.30 p.m.; Sundays at 10 p.m.

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SYDNEY.—Printed and published by John Fairfax and Sons, at the office of "The Sydney Morning Herald," Pitt and Hunter streets, Thursday, December 24, 1908.

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